



# **Mount Vernon Police Department 2012 Annual Report**

## **MOUNT VERNON POLICE DEPARTMENT CODE OF ETHICS**

*As a Mount Vernon Police Officer, my fundamental duty is to serve mankind; to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation, and the peaceful against violence or disorder and to respect the Constitutional Rights of all men to liberty, equality and justice.*



*I will keep my private life unsullied as an example to all; maintain courageous calm in the face of danger, scorn, or ridicule; develop self restraint and be constantly mindful of the welfare of others. Honest in thought and deed in both my personal and official life. I will be exemplary in obeying the laws of the land and the regulations of the office. Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature or that is confided in me in my official capacity will be kept ever secret unless revelation is necessary in the performance of my duty. I will never act officiously or permit personal feelings, prejudices, animosities or friendships to influence my decisions.*

*With no compromise for crime and with relentless prosecution or criminals, I will enforce the law courteously and appropriately without fear or favor, malice or violence and never accepting gratuities.*

*I recognize the badge of my office as a symbol of public faith, and I accept it as a public trust to be held so long as I am true to the ethics of the police service. I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself before God to my chosen profession law enforcement.*



### **DEPARTMENT VISION**

*Safe and Enjoyable Community Living*



### **DEPARTMENT MISSION**

*To consistently seek and find ways to affirmatively promote, preserve, and deliver a feeling of security, safety, and productive, quality services to citizens and visitors of our community*

*The Department's Vision, Mission and Values, in concert with the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics, reflect the guiding philosophy of the Mount Vernon Police Department.*

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## INTRODUCTION

This Annual Report identifies and documents the Police Department's 2012 accomplishments and achievements. It's an inward look at our successes and strengths, as well as an outward measure of effectiveness in our ability to build positive community partnerships and citizen involvement. It includes crime statistics and identifies how Department resources are utilized. This report also provides a glimpse into future obstacles and challenges, which will be addressed through strategic planning.

Policing our community requires a balance between enforcement related policing tactics and enhancing the quality of life in our community through prevention and education. Accomplishing such a balance depends on our ability to focus on and find ways to resolve problematic issues as well as our ability to communicate and partner with citizens and businesses, eliciting their help and support. Crime prevention is the central theme of this organization. Our ultimate goal is to make our community a better place to live, work, learn, and play.



[www.mountvernonwa.gov](http://www.mountvernonwa.gov)



K-9 Luther



**To the Mayor, City Council Members, and Mount Vernon Citizens:**

On behalf of the men and women of the Mount Vernon Police Department, it is my pleasure to present the 2012 Annual Report. This report summarizes crime and statistical data, and personnel highlights for the past year. The Department experienced another great year of accomplishments and services to the citizens and visitors of Mount Vernon.

The Records Division was very busy with the transition to the new National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS). We are pleased to report that we experienced a drop in serious crime while our overall calls for service increased slightly. Our calls for service were up from 20,748 to 21,011 in 2012 and a 9 percent decrease in serious crimes going from 100 to 91. While we are pleased with the overall numbers, we pledge to continue to work toward the Departments Vision *"Safe and Enjoyably Community Living"*.



Our efforts towards neighborhood policing continues as we work together with our residents to identify and solve specific neighborhood problems. We could not be more pleased with our volunteer force as they provided more than 4,794 hours of service time. The Department is fortunate to have these volunteers and their valuable service to the community.

I wish to thank Mayor Jill Boudreau and the City Council members for their support and confidence in our Department. I would also like to thank the men and women of the Mount Vernon Police Department. Our entire staff, civilian and sworn, has worked extremely hard this past year. We also saw service milestones reached including the retirement of Chief Ken Bergsma after 35 years of service and Sergeant Mark Shipman with 34 years. On behalf of the entire Police Department, we wish them a long and healthy retirement.

As we look ahead to 2013, we understand the unique challenges we face and will continue to work hard to meet our mission. We pledge to the community that we will continue to be good stewards of the public trust, remain fiscally efficient, and provide the very best possible service to all of our residents. We appreciate your continued support and understanding and look forward to an even stronger partnership between the Department and the people we serve. It is my honor to be your Chief of Police.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerry L. Dodd  
Chief of Police

## **THE DEPARTMENT**

The Mount Vernon Police Department is Washington State Accredited and when fully staffed, the Department consists of 44 commissioned officers, two Community Service Officers, and ten support personnel. More than 50 citizen volunteers help police the community by providing a valuable service which allows other Department staff more time to respond to calls, handle quality of life issues, and apprehend offenders.

As you review the 2012 crime figures and goals and objectives accomplishments clearly demonstrate Department personnel have continued to achieved great success under difficult circumstances with limited resources.



To continue to expect or experience positive lasting results will require resources in the way of staffing to make this happen. One can predict that we will see personnel leave the agency for one reason or another. To continue to

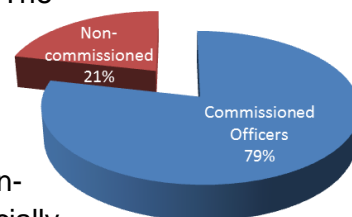
provide the service and results this City has come to expect will require an aggressive hiring process which keeps up with the loss of personnel.

A major concern the Department continues to face involves several retirement aged officers contemplating making this transition. Because of budget cuts, two positions were removed from the 2011 budget (sworn officer and non-sworn Community Service Officer). In addition, the hiring process is often slow due to several factors, which adds to the staffing shortage caused by the removal of these positions. It takes approximately one year to go through the hiring process to solo-status of an officer. The Department has made adjustments to maintain the level of service the City requires. We will continue to be innovative in our attempt to obtain staffing relief before others retire or move on in some other capacity.

## **ORANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

The Department is divided into two “bureaus.” The “Operations Bureau” consists of the Patrol, Criminal Investigations, and Crime Prevention “Divisions.” The “Services Bureau” consists of the Administrative, Records, and Property “Divisions.” Each Division is under the command of a Lieutenant.

Current staffing includes 44 commissioned Officers, two non-commissioned Community Service Officers, one specially commissioned Animal Control Officer, and nine support personnel.



## **SERVICE BUREAU**

### **Administrative Services Division**

With a vacancy in the command ranks in 2012, Chief Jerry Dodd and Lieutenant Chris Cammick shared the responsibility for pre-employment, research, collective bargaining, internal affairs, training, and accreditation.

### **Records Division**

This Division is responsible for the general maintenance and management of all Department records. One Receptionist, and four Record Specialists are assigned to this Division. Records Manager Shannon Haigh is the commander of this Division.

### **Property Division**

Also under the command of Records Manager Shannon Haigh, the Property Division is responsible for the general maintenance, storage, integrity, and management of all property and evidence in the Department's possession. One Property Custodian is assigned to this Division.



*Records Manager Shannon Haigh joined the Department in 2009 and is a graduate of Western Washington University.*

## **OPERATIONAL BUREAU**

### **Patrol Division**

Under the command of Lieutenant Greg Booth, Patrol Division Officers are the first responders to calls for service. The Patrol Division includes traffic enforcement, tactical response, Priority Policing Team, neighborhood resource, K-9, and animal control. Additionally, the Patrol Division Lieutenant coordinates training for new recruits under the Field Training Officer (FTO) Program.

For patrolling purposes, the City is divided into two primary areas, north and south. Officers are assigned these areas and respond to investigation and calls for service within that assigned area. Additional officers work as "rovers" or perform more specialized directed patrol activities. Dividing the City into sections allows for a more productive policing effort and better utilization of resources.



*Lieutenant Greg Booth joined the Department in 1995 and is a graduate of Western Washington University.*

## **Criminal Investigation Division**

The Criminal Investigations Division, commanded by Lieutenant Chris Cammock, investigates crimes against persons and/or property; follows up on drug/vice related activity; gathers intelligence; and provides proactive investigation.

Investigators are placed on weekly rotational “on call”. They are subject to returning to work after hours when the need arises. The Division submits criminal cases to the Prosecutor for review, charging, or declining those cases where the collected information reveals no possibility of the case being solved. The Division investigated 322 new cases in 2012. One Sergeant, four Investigators, and one Secretary are assigned to this Division.



*Lieutenant Chris Cammock joined the Department in 1989 and is a graduate of Central Washington University and the FBI National Academy.*

## **Crime Prevention Division**

The Crime Prevention Division, also under the command of Lieutenant Chris Cammock, attempts to identify and solve community problems. This Division offers security planning, public education, and community services and is responsible for supervision of the Department’s Volunteer Programs. One Sergeant, one Public Education (TEAM) Officer, and two Community Service Officers are assigned to Crime Prevention.

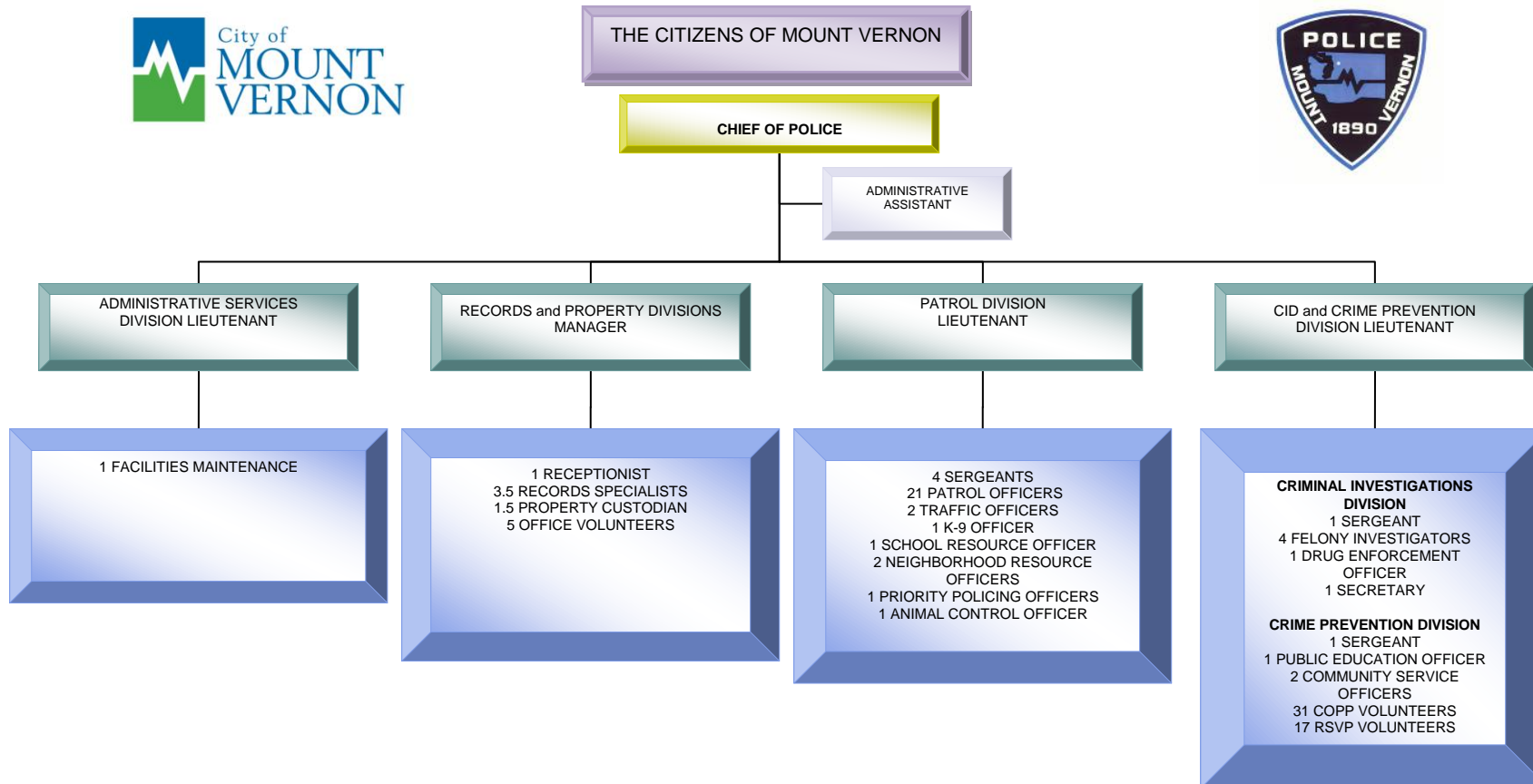
With a “horizontal” command structure, decision-making is encouraged at all organizational levels in an effort to eliminate bureaucratic barriers, move the agency forward, increase efficiency, and continue to illicit community trust and support. We also strive to hire those who display strong leadership, decision-making, and communication skills, and we provide continued training to enhance these qualities.

The next two pages display staffing and functional organization charts designed to outline the various duties and responsibilities of the members of the Mount Vernon Police Department. As you review these charts, the many core responsibilities necessary to police our community, will become evident.





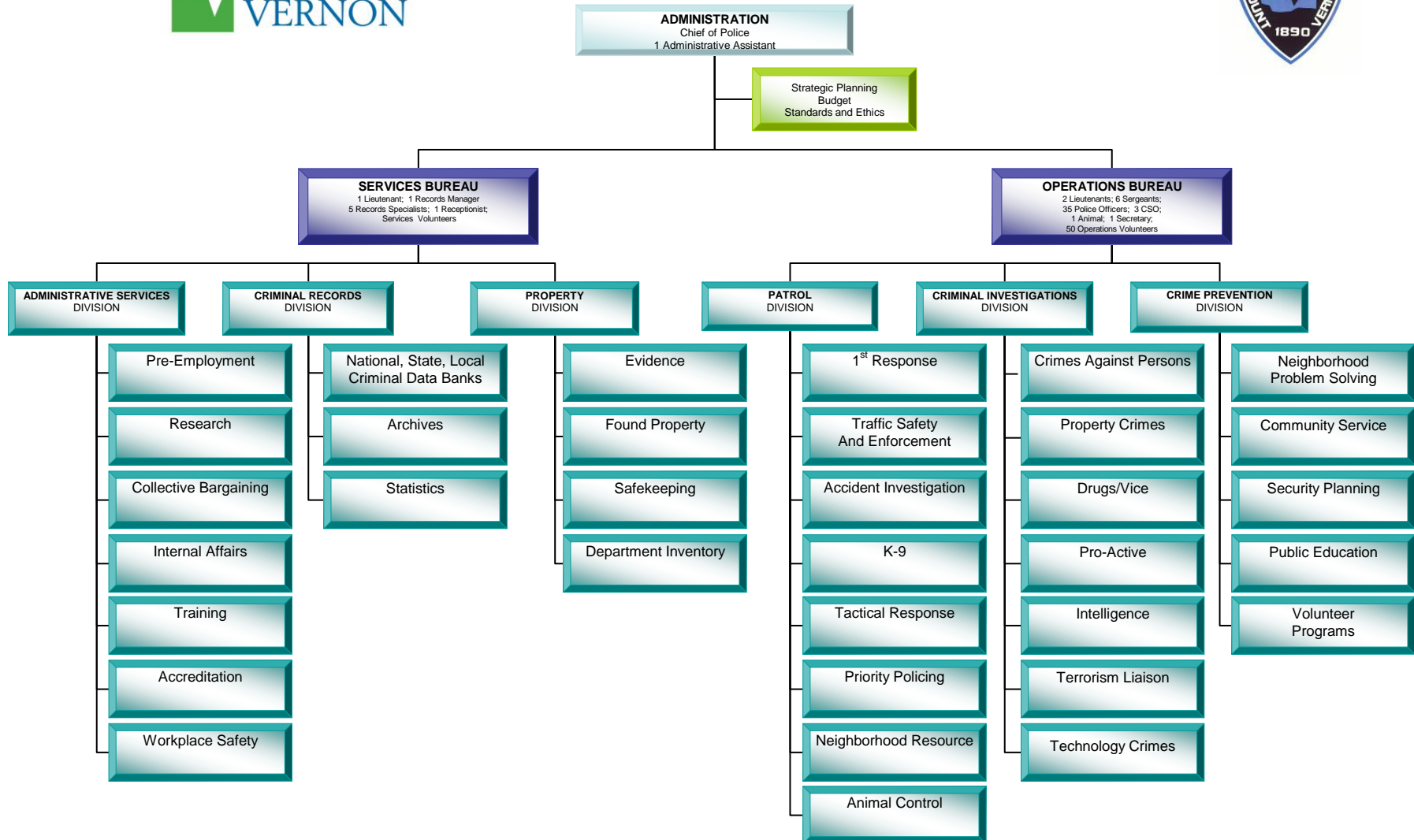
## STAFFING CHART



Authorized Personnel: 44 Sworn Officers and 12 Civilian Staff



## FUNCTIONAL CHART



## **PERSONNEL CHANGES**

### **New Hire**

- Officer Ben Green was hired in 2011, graduated from the Basic Law Enforcement Academy (Class #678) in February 2012, and successfully completed his field (job) training in May. Currently he is assigned to Sergeant Brent Thompson's patrol squad.
- Officer Brandon Liukko was hired on May 2, 2012, graduated from the Basic Law Enforcement Academy (Class #684), and is scheduled to complete his field (job) training in January 2013.

### **Assignment Rotations**

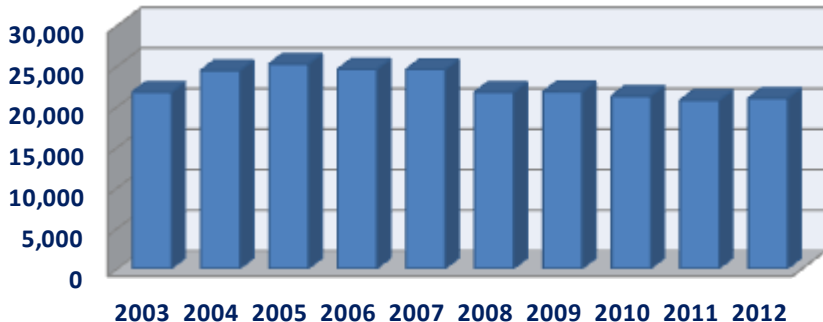
- Officer Rick Vander Griend rotated to the Criminal Investigations Division in January.
- Officer Mike Marker rotated to the Patrol Power Shift position in January.
- Sergeant Mike Don rotated to the Criminal Investigations Division Supervisor position in September.
- Sergeant Jeff Nelson rotated to the Crime Prevention Supervisor position in September.

### **Well-Earned Retirements**

- Chief Ken Bergsma retired on October 1, 2012, after completing 35 years of loyal and dedicated service to the city.
- Sergeant Mark Shipman retired on December 31, 2012, after completing 34 years of devoted and faithful service to the Department.

## **CALLS FOR SERVICE**

A "call for service" is a request for police service in which an officer is dispatched, or an incident observed by a police officer. Not every call for service generates a police report. In 2012 the Department responded to, or initiated, 21,011 calls for service, which is a 1.27% increase from 2011 and 1.22% decrease from 2010. These calls for service include, but are not limited to: reports of criminal activity; motor vehicle collisions; assists to other agencies; suspicious calls, alarm activation responses and other service related functions. Looking at this data from a historical prospective, the average number of calls over the last ten years is 22,712. The call load from 2005 represented the highest number of cases at 25,239, while 2011 represented the lowest with 20,748. In review of the data for 2012, there is no one particular offense, series of incidents, or external variables that would suggest a root cause for this slight increase.



## **DEPARTMENT BUDGET**

The annual base budget and capital budget for the Police Department is established by the Chief of Police and staff and approved each November by the City Council. The adopted fiscal year budget for 2012 was approved at \$7,269,758 of which 82% of total budget was allocated to personnel costs. Even in difficult financial circumstances, the Department has consistently exceeded all budgetary demands and has in all instances, proven fiscally responsible.

## **DEPARTMENT PRIORITIES**

Established operational priorities place the highest importance on delivering quality, professional services to the community through open communication and adaptability in addressing problems. Our guiding principles, values, purpose, and mission direct us in how we operate as an agency and how we conduct our community contacts. We place a great emphasis on building stronger neighborhoods, both residential and business. When neighborhoods are allowed to decay, criminals have the “upper hand.” Gone unchecked, neighborhood decay spreads like a cancer; crime increases and citizens are afraid.

Although preventing crime is our number one operational priority, we continue to employ enforcement practices where necessary, with the ultimate goal of modifying behavior. When dealing with traffic related issues, our ultimate goal is to reduce accidents and injuries and to make our streets safer through behavior modification. Officers consider the seriousness of the occurrence, Department policy, and the driver’s history when responding to a traffic-related incident. Once officers have reviewed the situation, they use their discretion to determine the best outcome. Since the Department has no mandate regarding the number of citations issued, neither “quota standards” nor “revenue” play a part in an officer’s decision to warn (educate) the driver or issue a ticket (enforcement). Engineering modifications also play an important role in helping improve the safety of city streets.



The stricter, hard policing (enforcement) approach is normally utilized when addressing crimes against persons, felonies, gang-related activity, illegal drug violations, DUI’s, domestic violence, and assault related incidents because these types of crimes have an increased potential for serious outcomes.

Protecting citizens, their property, and visitors to this community are the driving force behind what we do and how it is accomplished.

We are committed to fulfilling our policing mission through the following practices:

- Employing a highly competent and qualified staff
- Providing a quick and rapid response to emergencies
- Effective policing practices to combat criminal activity



- High visibility of Department personnel and volunteers
- Building community partnerships and problem solving together
- Developing a sense of trust and understanding with the community
- Utilizing prevention practices as the central operating strategy
- Demonstrating the highest standards of professional conduct and ethics

At all levels, this Department consistently seeks to find the best possible contemporary policing strategies and practices for the community. Goals and objectives are massaged annually in an effort to meet our Mission and Vision. Re-evaluating practices provides a greater level of success, and ensures progress in our goal of creating a community that is a safe and enjoyable place to live, work and play.

## **CRIME**

Year end 2012 data shows a significant decrease 31.78% in car prowls something not experienced many years. Arson showed a slight increase of one offense or 11.1%, and burglaries decreased by 33 offenses or 9.46%. Violent crime decreased by nine offenses or 9.00%. Motor vehicle theft was up 10 offenses; robbery increased by 11 offenses or 47.8% and aggravated assaults were up by 6 offenses or 15.00%. In addition, 31% of the property stolen in 2011 has been recovered. We finished the year with a 10.87% decrease in violent crimes per 1000 residential population.



## **CRIME PROFILE (Significant Change in Crime Reporting)**

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program was conceived in 1929 by the International Association of Chiefs of Police to meet a need for reliable, uniform crime statistics for the nation. In 1930, the FBI was tasked with collecting, publishing, and archiving those statistics.

By the late 1970s, the law enforcement community saw the need for a more detailed crime reporting program that would meet the needs of law enforcement agencies in the 21st century.

In response to this need for more flexible, in-depth data, the UCR Program formulated the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). NIBRS presents comprehensive, detailed information about crime incidents to law enforcement, researchers, governmental planners, students of crime, and the general public.

To put in simple terms, National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) has improved and modernized the Uniform Crime Reporting program. The new system was approved for general use at a national UCR conference in March 1998, and last year the Department was NIBRS certified by the FBI.

The general concepts of collecting and reporting UCR data are the same as in NIBRS. However, NIBRS goes into much greater detail than the summary-based UCR system. NIBRS includes 46 Group A offenses whereas UCR only has eight offenses classified as Part I offenses. For that reason, UCR and NIBRS are not completely analytical comparable - data users should use some caution when comparing past statistical data of UCR to 2012 NIBRS crime data.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	- % +
<b>Murder</b>	0	0	0	2	0	2	2	<b>0%</b>
<b>Rape</b>	19	12	20	20	15	24	21	<b>-12.50%</b>
<b>Robbery</b>	24	24	25	33	23	34	22	<b>-35.29%</b>
<b>Aggravated Assault</b>	33	35	46	33	51	40	46	<b>+15.00%</b>
<b>Arson</b>	23	12	28	11	8	9	10	<b>+11.11%</b>
<b>Burglary</b>	265	294	275	275	290	349	316	<b>-9.46%</b>
<b>Theft</b>	1,709	1,866	1,374	1,769	1,756	1,376	1,166	<b>-15.26%</b>
<b>Vehicle Theft</b>	180	164	83	80	63	75	85	<b>+13.33%</b>
<b>Total UCR Crime</b>	2,253	2,413	1,851	2,223	2,206	1,909	1,668	<b>-12.62%</b>
<b>UCR Crime per1000</b>	78.47	82.1	61.39	72.18	71.12	61.54	52.55	<b>-14.61%</b>
<b>Car Prowl</b>	704	706	458	690	564	365	249	<b>-31.78%</b>
<b>Violent Crime</b>	76	77	91	88	89	100	91	<b>-9.00%</b>
<b>Violent Crime per 1000</b>	2.65	2.62	3.02	2.86	2.87	3.22	2.87	<b>-10.87%</b>
<b>Calls for Service</b>	24,572	24,563	21,715	21,802	21,270	20,748	21,011	<b>+1.27%</b>
<b>MV Population</b>	28,710	29,390	30,150	30,800	31,020	31,020	31,743	<b>+2.33%</b>

There is typically a strong temptation to compare the crime statistics of one jurisdiction with another in an effort to gauge police effectiveness in some relative manner. This tendency should be avoided

unless there is a serious effort to consider all of the associated factors that influence those statistics. Those factors include:

- Level and accuracy of reporting
- Economic conditions locally and regionally
- Variations in composition of the population
- Population density
- Degree of urbanization
- Number of residents versus the “policed population”
- Modes of transportation and highway system
- Cultural conditions
- Family conditions (divorce, cohesiveness, etc.)
- Climate
- Effective strength of the police agency
- Administrative strength of the police agency
- Policies of other components of the criminal justice system (prosecutorial, judicial, correctional, and probationary)

### **Policing Challenges in Mount Vernon**

#### **Agency Strategic Challenges:**

- Continue with Department policing philosophy
  - Exchange
  - Adaptability
  - Crime Prevention
  - Shared Responsibility

<b>GROUP A OFFENSE – NIBRS REPORTING</b>	<b>FY2012</b>
Arson	2
Assault - Simple	380
Assault - Aggravated	46
Burglary	297
Counterfeit	0
Destruction of Property	691
Drug Offenses	209
Fraud Offenses	39
Homicide	2
Kidnapping/Abduction	2
Larceny/Theft - From Vehicle	249
Larceny/Theft - Shoplifting	440
Larceny/Theft - Other	101
Motor Vehicle Theft	85
Pornography	5
Prostitution	6
Robbery	21
Sex Offenses - Other	6
Sex Offenses - Rape	14
Stolen Property Offenses	27
<b>Total Group A Offenses</b>	<b>3,390</b>
<b>Total Group A Incidents</b>	<b>2,905</b>

- Maintain staffing levels that meet the needs of the community
- Adapt and maintain service to new growth areas in the City
- Expand Department deployment model which provides a semi-permanent uniformed patrol staff presence in all neighborhoods
- Proactively address traffic related concerns
- Enhance our ability to attract quality employees
- Continue with agency accreditation process
- Remain focused on Department operational priority – prevention of crime
- Propose crime impact measures that have the greatest success of addressing criminal activity
- Aggressively address gang related activity
- Continue commitment to stay current with new technological advances
- Growing cultural differences
- Develop trust and open communication with all



cultures

- Understand the different cultures in this community
  - Attempt to hire staffing that reflects the makeup of the community
  - Changing public attitudes
  - Our challenge is to develop trust with the community and create solutions to community issues
  - Continue to be prepared for unusual occurrences

### **Inter-Agency Strategic Challenges**

- Support Skagit County in resolving the need for additional jail space
- Continue to look for ways where police agencies can share or combine resources
- Complete and implement the strategic plan for addressing gang activity county-wide
- Determine the feasibility of developing a county-wide multi-jurisdictional investigate protocol
- Strive to identify a funding source to upgrade the Spillman system for all users and transition to Spillman Mobile.

### **DEPARTMENT TRAINING**

Members of the Department participated in 6,950 hours of training in 2012. Employees are required by the State to have specific number of training hours to maintain their certifications. We are always



striving to keep pace with the changing legal environment and new investigative techniques. We also have certified Instructors within the Department that conduct in-house training. Using the Department's multipurpose room we continue to look for opportunities to host trainings for our agency and neighboring jurisdictions. By hosting classes we can reduce our expenses and provide additional training to our officers. A few areas of training included: first aid, firearms, collision investigation, Spanish, active shooter, bloodborne/airborne pathogens, search and seizure, crime scene investigations, defensive tactics, emergency driving, and hazardous materials.

## **OUR COMMUNITY**

Our community continues to grow every year. This can be observed by driving through the City and experiencing congestion or by looking at the amount of growth. Some of our older established neighborhoods have begun to age and, with that, we see issues which require addressing. Residents often become frustrated looking for solutions. Residents have high expectations that the Police Department will deploy resources to provide the greatest likelihood of ensuring an improved quality of life.

We believe our greatest success to meet the needs of community is based on four strategic principals; open and honest two-way communication with the community, adaptability in providing solutions to community issues and problems, crime prevention as a central theme of operation, and shared responsibility with our citizenry in policing our community. This philosophy is consistent with the direction identified by the Mayor and City Council.

With dwindling resources due to tough economic times, it will continue to take communication and collaboration with other City departments and law enforcement agencies, community participation, and utilization of outside resources to ensure positive changes continue to occur.



the

In 2012, staff in the Crime Prevention Division continued to review crime data by specific neighborhood zones. A venue was established whereby every other month staff meets to review this crime data in a program called "Operations Talk". Priorities are established and strategies and tactics developed and implemented to address these various issues with the goal of solving crime, improving the quality of life in the community, and reducing duplication of services.

As you look through our many accomplishments, it will become evident the policing philosophy this department implements in the community is working and has resulted in improved communication and interaction with other City departments and the community.

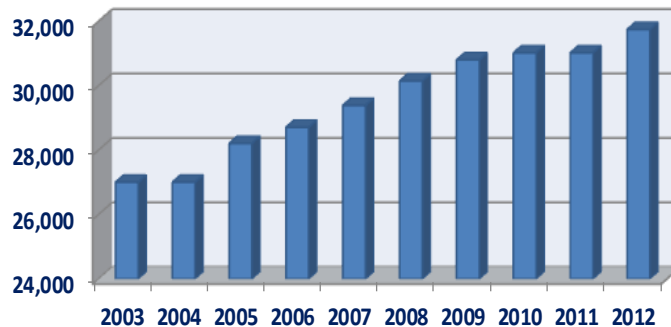
In a City with almost 32,000 residents, we continue to see traffic-related issues throughout our community. We see this through congestion, frustrated motorists, and accidents. It is not uncommon to see a motorist speeding, running a yellow or red light, or driving in an aggressive manner. We have partnered with Public Works on engineering strategies, provided educational public service messages, addressed violations through enforcement, and conducted evaluations of our efforts to determine success or to re-direct focus where necessary. This four tiered approach

provides the best opportunity to make positive change in traffic related issues. The Department has been actively working with other law enforcement agencies and the Washington State Traffic Safety Commission on DUI and other traffic related emphases, focusing on the reduction of accidents and injuries and the arrest of violators. The number of reportable accidents for 2011 was 638 compared to 676 reported in 2010

We have continued to remain focused on our approach to addressing these and other community related issues and problems. Our staff has contributed immensely to ensure overall success in the delivery of services in a professional manner. We remain goal focused, striving to meet our Department Mission.

### **What is driving the growth in our community?**

Mount Vernon is the center for county government and many social service agencies. This community is also very attractive due to its location, which has caused a steady increase in population. In 2012, the estimated population for Mount Vernon was 31,743. Mount Vernon is a mid-way point between two major international trade centers, Seattle and Vancouver. Our recreational attractions bring many visitors to this community as well. Mount Vernon is also the host of several community events that require increasing police services.



In 2012, the growth Mount Vernon had experienced in recent years in residential and commercial areas of the City continued to experience a slow recovery. In 2012, there were 174 new single family homes and four commercial buildings that totaled 27,356 square feet constructed.

The development of residential housing increases the service area for staff. The increased retail business brings a large number of visitors to the community to utilize these services.

With all of the attractiveness of our community means is the potential for criminal activity to occur. We see this in the form of drug activity, gang violence, traffic related concerns, theft, and other forms of crime.

We strive to employ tactics that provide us the best opportunity to make an impact on criminal activity. As you review the individual organizational accomplishments of the different divisions, you will see many examples of the proactive measures employed that were aimed at making a positive impact on crime which ultimately helps make the Mount Vernon community a safe and enjoyable place to live, work, learn, and play.

### **LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE**

Having experienced great success with our community-based policing approach, we have developed a deployment model where, in addition to their general city-wide patrol duties, officers will be assigned to geographic areas of the City.

“Neighborhood-based policing,” is an extension of our community-based policing philosophy. The City has been sectorized into geographic boundaries or zones and officers are assigned and responsible for specific areas, which enhances their ability to develop long-term partnerships with residents and allows for tighter connectivity between the community and Department members working together to solve neighborhood issues.



This model, specifically developed for Mount Vernon divides the City into 12 neighborhoods (in addition to Kulshan Creek and Westhill neighborhoods which were previously developed and staffed with full-time Neighborhood Resource Officers). Four of the 12 neighborhoods (Downtown, Center Point, Digby Heights and West Mount Vernon) have been assigned officers who work in teams of two. The foundation is in place to assign staff to the remaining eight zones in the next two years.

We believe neighborhood-based deployment will reduce the likelihood of issues falling through the cracks, improve communication, and strengthen our already positive police/community interaction. This philosophy will require a partnership with other City departments, the business community, and citizenry to ensure success. We will continue to keep you updated in our ability to fully transition to this philosophy of policing.

## **2012 ORGANIZATIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

At mid-year, the Police Department held its annual strategic planning workshop to establish direction for the coming year. Prior to budget preparation, the various units and divisions of the Department formulated their annual goals and objectives 2013. These goals and objectives that are designed to be congruent with the Department’s Mission and Vision and subordinate to the broad goals of the agency.

We do focus on planned goals and objectives; however each year additional objectives are often discovered. Department members attempt to accomplish these as well. Annually, the majority of the identified goals and objectives are accomplished while others are either modified or transferred to the following year due to a change in operational priorities.

Yearly division managers provide a re-cap of goals and objectives. The following identifies the many accomplishments throughout the Department for Year 2012. Each contribution, whether large or small, helps this community a better place to live, visit, learn, or work. Meeting our Mission is dependant on the many contributions of the members of this Department.



## ***PATROL DIVISION***

### ***2012 Accomplishments***





## **INTRODUCTION**

*“The real measure of a police agency – the fact that separates excellence from mediocrity – is the commitment to purpose and to pursue continuous improvement with integrity” (Mount Vernon Police Department – Strategic Plan 2008-2012)*

For the past 20 years, the Mount Vernon Police Department has engaged in a directed, purposeful evolution both in how we interact with and deliver services to our community. Best described as *“a desire to partner with citizens toward the common goal of a safe and enjoyable community”*, we have sought to open avenues of communication and directly involve citizens in the development and delivery of police services. It is that mission that pushes us deeper into the community, closer to the root causes of crime and disorder at the neighborhood level, and in turn allows us to directly and significantly impact citizens’ quality of life.

The Mount Vernon Police Department believes the best indicator of a community’s overall health, is found within its “neighborhoods”. Neighborhoods may experience similar problems, however, causes vary and solutions require unique strategies. It is this fundamental belief that underscores the importance of policing our community in a manner in which we target the underlying commonalities that lead to crime and disorder while understanding the inherent uniqueness of individual neighborhoods

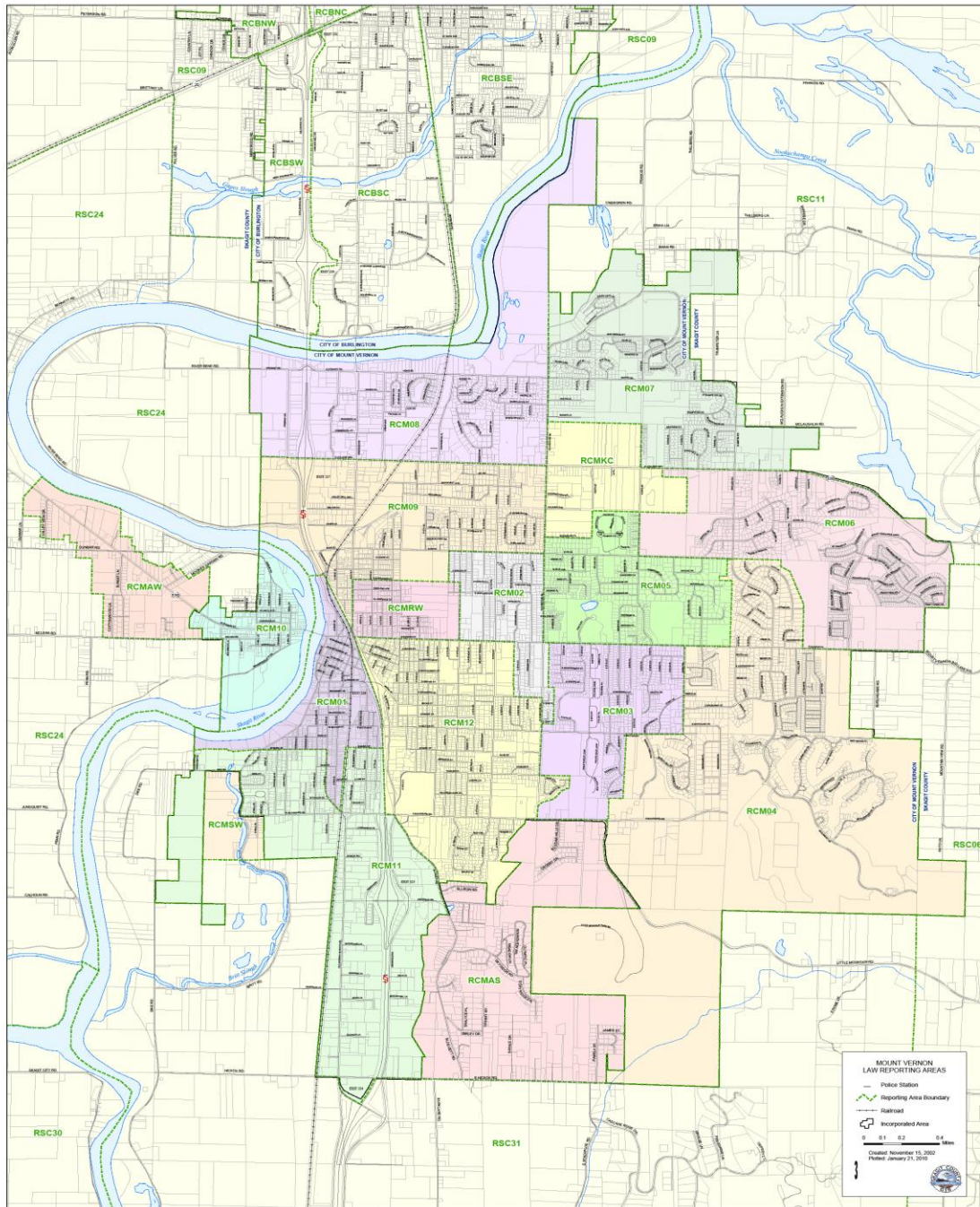
In 2009, a committee comprised of staff from throughout the Department, was charged with developing a deployment model, allowing Patrol officers to partner with individual neighborhoods within the larger community. Long-term partnerships would provide opportunities for officers and citizens to work toward the following **goals**:

- 1) Identifying unique “neighborhood “ problems.
- 2) Understanding the underlying causes, and
- 3) Developing custom strategies to ensure lasting solutions.

The committee developed a deployment model outlining “14” identified neighborhoods within the City, including the previously defined Kulshan Creek and WestHill Neighborhoods - see map on the next page. In 2010, three neighborhoods were assigned to officers, as the initial phase of deployment, and neighborhood objectives were established to focus efforts toward the previously stated goals:

- **Downtown Zone:** Officers Shaddy/Jones – Sgt. Thompson’s Squad
- **Center Point Zone:** Officers Reed/Ruxton – Sgt. Nelson’s Squad
- **Digby Heights Zone:** Officers Maxwell/Martinez – Sgt. Lindberg’s Squad
- **West Mount Vernon Zone:** Officer Edgar Serrano – Sgt. Thompson’s Squad

It is the goal of the Department to eventually have officers assigned to all neighborhoods throughout the city, providing in-depth, first-hand knowledge of the problems and issues facing our community. For 2012, we are planning to identify and deploy officer(s) to the West Mount Vernon zone and review additional zones for possible assignment. As our deployment expands, neighborhood officers will be responsible for developing and maintaining their individual goals/objectives for their assigned area.



## GOAL #1

**REDUCE THE INCIDENCE OF CRIME, FEAR OF CRIME AND DISORDER WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY TO LEVELS PROPORTIONATE TO THE GROWTH IN POPULATION BY IDENTIFYING AND DIRECTING SERVICES TO NEEDED AREAS.**

### ***DIVISION WIDE OBJECTIVES:***

#### **Objective #1**

Continue our directed efforts to positively impact the levels of property crime (vehicle prowling, stolen vehicles, burglary, retail thefts, graffiti) occurring in Mount Vernon, holding them at or below the historical average. Strategies to include:

- Active participation by Patrol, Crime Prevention, CID, Special Operations, Zone Officers and Records staff in Operations Talk, to facilitate the open exchange of information, response strategies and resources.
- Statistical tracking of activity levels, geographic locations and person(s) of interest to maximize resource deployment efficiency and effectiveness, and identify emerging trends.
- Directed patrol response plans in coordination with assigned “zone” officers.
- Case investigation/charging coordination with prosecutors.
- Proactive partnerships with adult/juvenile probation, identifying and tracking prolific offenders.
- Continue to develop in-roads into our assigned “zones”, to open the flow of communication and information-sharing with residents and businesses on problems facing neighborhoods.

### **ACCOMPLISHED:**


- Communication and organization are critical components for successful problem identification, evaluation and resolution. Since we are in the problem-solving business, it is imperative that we understand and exercise these with the utmost efficiency.

In 2012, we continued our Operations Talk meetings designed as a meeting format/mechanism to facilitate the exchange of information and resources within our organization - bringing all resources together to collectively problem-solve, develop response plans and deploy resources.

- The Purpose of Operations Talk is to provide:
  - Greater continuity, coordination and communication between the various divisions providing services to preserve and strengthen our community's livability
  - A comprehensive approach to neighborhood problem-solving
  - A re-occurring point to collectively evaluate our approach to problems or issues
- Operations Talk includes:
  - Neighborhood Zone Sergeants/Officers
  - Crime Prevention
  - Patrol staff
  - Special Operations
  - CID
  - Records
  - Code Enforcement
  - Command Staff
- The overall goal of Operations Talk is to:
  - Identify community issues of crime and disorder at the earliest point
  - Evaluate response options/strategies
  - Apply appropriate resources to successfully eliminate or reduce the associated impact on the quality of life in our community.



- In 2012, Operations Talk convened for “5” meetings, with an average attendance of 24. During those meetings, 69 separate issues of crime/disorder were identified, with 49 of those either completely resolved or reduced in frequency. Some issues included:
  - Noise/nuisance residences
  - Graffiti
  - Drug activity – associated residences
  - Burglaries
  - Theft – scrap metal
  - Deteriorating properties and the associated problems (trespass/squatters)
  - Repeated 911 calls associated with specific businesses/residences

<b>Operations Talk</b>  	<b>PURPOSE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater continuity, <u>coordination and communication</u> between the various divisions providing services to preserve and strengthen our community's livability.</li> <li>• A <u>comprehensive approach</u> to neighborhood problems until the issue is resolved.</li> <li>• A <u>reoccurring point to collectively evaluate</u> our approach to problems or issues.</li> </ul>
	<b>WHEN</b> February/April/June/August/October/December First Wednesday of the Month 2:30pm-4:30pm Roll Call Room
	<b>ROLES &amp; RESPONSIBILITIES</b>
	<b>Chair:</b> Lt. Greg Booth <b>Co-Chair:</b> Lt. Chris Cammock • Schedule the meetings, sends reminders, develop agendas, facilitate discussion <b>Meeting Minutes:</b> Kathryn Cherry or Sharon Storrs
	<b>Zone Sergeants &amp; Officers:</b> Assigned or scheduled • Zone activity report - crime stats, noteworthy e-mails, citizen complaints, etc.) • Update on projects, targeted areas or events since last meeting. • Problems or projects being closed out <b>Crime Prevention:</b> Sergeant Mike Don, CSO's Skiffington/Keck • Zone activity report - for areas not covered by a patrol squad (crime stats, citizen complaints, etc.) • Project updates, comments from BW groups, etc. • Problems or projects being closed out <b>Special Operations:</b> Sergeant Mikal Moore or assigned • Progress report: Previous help requests from Special Operation Units • Current focus areas for PPT and Traffic • Upcoming events & activities in Kulshan, West Hill Middle Schools • What's ahead this next month. <b>Code Enforcement:</b> Ken Lee <b>CID:</b> Sergeant Mark Shipman or assigned <b>RECORDS:</b> To Be Determined

- During the Summer months of 2012, PPT worked with our SRO and Westhill NRO on a directed patrol plan focused on two chronic crime issues: Drugs / Gangs

*“Further develop our understanding of local drug related issues, to better detect, investigate and suppress drug crimes”*

- Outcomes included:
  - Seizure of 14 grams methamphetamine, 20 grams heroin, 10 grams marijuana and numerous items of drug paraphernalia
  - Investigation of “2” drug related robberies
  - Assisted SCIDEU with surveillance on houses in core problem areas
  - Coordinated an undercover drug buy
  - Identified numerous target residences / persons for operational focus

*“Continue our gang suppression efforts through identification, tracking and investigation of gang-related crimes and activity”*

- Outcomes included:
  - Arrest of suspect in drive-by shooting on E. Fir Street
  - Arrest of gang member wanted for felony assault – also in possession of handgun at time of arrest
  - Arrest of gang member suspect on warrants, after surveillance
  - Recovered “2” additional handguns during separate arrests of gang-involved suspects
- Throughout 2012, Mount Vernon communities continued to experience property thefts (burglaries, vehicle prowls, petty thefts, etc.) at a rate higher than our historical norms.
  - Theft complaints:      2012                      1168 total  
    2007                      981 total

Understanding the primary underlying tenet of property crimes is drug-related, MVPD started to take a very proactive and aggressive stance on addressing our local drug-involved community. This is a multi-faceted problem that cannot be adequately addressed with enforcement alone. Partnerships are vital with our social service programs and medical community, as well as education of our residents on preventative and proactive measures they can take to reduce the likelihood of victimization.

Many of our targeted drug houses are rentals, so our partnership with local landlords and managers is vital to success.

Operations Talk was the central communication and information-collecting venue for the majority of our identified drug nuisance persons/properties. During 2012 we identified “31” separate addresses linked to drug sales/usage. In addition, we identified some “hot spots” in the Fir Hill Zone and Centerpoint. Of the “31” identified problem properties, “24” were resolved or impacted to the level that activity was significantly reduced.

- Continuing examples of additional strategies and resources utilized in our focus to reduce the incidence of property crimes includes:
  - Teaming with outside agencies, to track and document similar crime trends and persons of interest, as criminal activity of this type is not defined by jurisdictional boundaries.
  - Coordination with juvenile and adult probation/parole, to hold offenders accountable when released into the community with pre-trial or post-incarceration restrictions.
  - Game cameras
  - Unmarked vehicles/bicycles and other surveillance methods

## **Objective #2**

Maintain our “pro-active” community-wide gang response efforts, focused on reducing incidence of gang-related violence/threats of violence and the spreading of gang subculture within our youth population.

Officer Chris Zimmer

- Continue building on our use of Spillman as our electronic database for gang documentation and tracking.
- Maintain our current gang files (annual purge of “old” files and evaluation/inclusion of “new” documentation)
- Continued direct collaboration with adult and juvenile parole/probation for tracking and holding identified gang-involved offenders accountable for their crimes and enforcing court-ordered release conditions.

## **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- PPT Officer Zimmer completed the annual gang intelligence file purge process, consistent with department intelligence file maintenance policy. “73” separate files both electronic and paper-copy were destroyed due to inactivity for 3 years.
- See Priority Policing accomplishments, outlining pro-active and collaborative efforts in 2012.

### **Objective #3**

Continue to develop and implement customized crime/disorder reduction plans when activity affecting our community rises beyond levels normally experienced.

- “Zone” officers shall remain current on zone service call activity and shall maintain open communication with residents and business owners to readily identify neighborhood issues as they emerge.

All Patrol Squads

### **Some Current Projects:**

- Center Point Zone:
  - Updated CPTED review of “all” apartment complexes on Stanford Drive
    - Work with management to address needs and implement changes

Center Point Zone Officers

- Downtown Zone:
  - Downtown Business District
    - Develop “contact” list for all businesses
    - Increased bike/foot patrols
  - Review options for neighborhood meeting (Cleveland/Hazel/Virginia)

Downtown Zone Officers

- Digby Heights Zone:
  - S. 25<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> Streets
    - Maintain consistent and high visibility patrols in area
    - Continued focus on parking concerns (wrong-way facing, sidewalk, etc.)
    - Maintain proactive investigation and removal of graffiti
  - Introductory meeting for Woodland and Maddox Creek areas (newly assigned to the Digby Heights Zone)

Digby Heights Zone Officers

### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- The Mount Vernon Police Department is a mission-based organization with a focus on maintaining a community that is safe and secure for residents to live, work and play. Our primary “goal” for achieving that mission is remaining focused on recognizing emerging trends of criminal activity and disorder and developing targeted response strategies to insure our community impacts are minimized. Examples in 2012 include:

- Citizens and business owners in Mount Vernon had long been plagued with “Hype” graffiti over the last several years. In the fall of 2012, PPT Officer Zimmer teamed with SWPD officers on an investigation in their jurisdiction, resulting in the identification of our suspect. The suspect has subsequently been charged with over “60” cases of malicious mischief, reference cases from MVPD, BPD and SWPD.
- In the fall of 2012, Digby Heights Zone officers teamed with Skagit County Community Action on a 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual “Coat Drive”. Officers helped develop a flyer and visited local service groups for donations of coats and funds. Special recognition to:
  - Mount Vernon (Noon) Kiwanis
  - Skagit-Mount Vernon Kiwanis (morning)
  - Mount Vernon Wellness Council
  - Mount Vernon Fire Department
  - Mount Vernon WalMart
  - Skagit County Sheriff's Office Benevolent Association

**Press Release: 2012 Coat Drive Results**  
December 16, 2012  
Officer Keith Johnston  
john@skagitcountywa.gov  
(360) 336-4271 Fax: 3442

	2011	2012
New Jackets	208	900
Knit hats	27	245
Scarves	5	5
Cash Donations	\$1,250	\$2,276

(Anonymous Sedro-Woolley resident personally kitted 75 hats & five scarves)

We're pleased to announce that this year's New Jacket Drive was an overwhelming success thanks to support across Skagit County.

The donations will help provide for more than three hundred households and over a thousand individuals who need assistance to keep warm this winter.

October was dedicated to raising awareness about a need in our community by Mount Vernon Police Officers Keith Johnston and Josh Maxwell. They partnered with Skagit County Community Action to identify individuals, families and provide distribution.

Special thanks goes to: Blade Chevrolet, Daniel & Julia Beyer, James & Jenna Hansen, Judd & Black, Mount Vernon Police Services Guild, Mount Vernon Police Staff, Mount Vernon Towing, Red Apple, Sedro-Woolley Police Benevolent Fund, Skagit County Sheriff's Office Benevolent Association, Skagit Farmer's Supply Country Store (RV), Skagit-Mount Vernon Kiwanis (noon club), Wal-Mart (RV).

Officer Keith Johnston

As a result of the combined efforts, 900 new/gently used jackets, 245 knit hats, and 5 scarves were donated/purchased for needy families in the Skagit Valley.

In addition, \$2276 in monetary donations was secured for Community Action.

- In early 2012, Walmart was the victim of a theft involving BB guns. Later that night, the Walmart sign received about \$3000 in damage and several businesses were vandalized and broken into at the Riverbend Station. Officers canvassed the area and were able to link the cases to the initial theft complaint. Search warrants were served and suspects were located. Officers received confessions from the suspects as well as the BB guns and property taken from the burglaries at Riverbend Station.
- West Mount Vernon businesses and residents were hit with a graffiti spree in 2012. In total, 10 victims were identified as a result of one overnight incident. West Mount Vernon Zone Officer Serrano, utilizing his zone contacts, quickly obtained surveillance video evidence and was able to confer with local businesses and residents to identify the suspects. One primary suspect, a resident in West Mount Vernon, and three others were formally charged with felony malicious mischief charges.

Incidents such as these, though they may be viewed by some as “not significant”, help to chip away at the feeling of security and the quality of life in a given neighborhood. Officer Serrano’s quick case investigation and open communication with victims helped minimize the negative repercussions and solidify the efforts for team work and problem-solving between community and police.

- Residents in the area of the 1100 Block of South 15<sup>th</sup> Street were witness to many nuisance/noise/drug related activities associated with a specific neighborhood residence. Complaints involved lots of traffic, parties, people coming/going at all hours, as well as evidence of drug usage spilling over in to neighbors yards. The resident and property owners are well known to law enforcement and MVPD did not receive any cooperation in attempts to abate the problems.

Due to the cumulative concerns, MVPD took proactive measures serving a search warrant and arresting the resident for drug charges and maintaining a drug residence. The result for the neighborhood was a reduction in the issues they had long been frustrated with, and an increase in their quality of life and community livability.

- Residents in the Viewmont Mobile Estates Trailer Park on S. 25<sup>th</sup> experienced a dramatic increase in graffiti/vandalism, as well as disorderly/fight issues associated with several trailers. The Digby Heights Zone Officers communicated closely with the management who worked to remove the identified sources of the complaints. Due to the combined efforts, the quality of life was dramatically improved within the trailer park as well as the immediately surrounding residential pockets.
- Several similar residences acting as magnets for drug activity were identified and specific response plans were tailored for reducing or removing their impact on the surrounding community:
  - 1200 & 1300 Block S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street
  - 200 Block N. Baker
  - 300 Block N. Barker
  - 600 Block W. Division
  - 3600 Block Seneca
  - 1500 Block S. Douglas
  - 1500 Block S. 12<sup>th</sup> Street
  - 2000 Block N. 35<sup>th</sup> Street
  - 1900 Block S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street
  - 800 Block N. 8<sup>th</sup>
  - 600 Block N. 1<sup>st</sup>
  - 200 Block W. Lawrence
  - 1300 Block S. 27<sup>th</sup>
  - 1100 Block E. Division
  - Several addresses in Centerpoint Zone
- The downtown business district continues to experience the quality of life issues associated with a centralized transient population. In response to these concerns, the Downtown Zone Officers worked on several issues in an attempt to change behavior and enhance the downtown districts ability to attract retail activity.
  - Directed foot/bike patrol focusing on:
    - Identifying transients and prohibiting them from blocking or otherwise interfering with public access locations.
    - Documenting and enforcing trespass warnings

- Addressing drinking/disorderly conduct in public places
- Aggressive begging

### **ADDITIONAL SIGNIFICANT INVESTIGATIONS IN 2012:**

- Assistance to Everett PD in tracking and arresting a violent Assault 1<sup>st</sup> suspect
- Arrest of homicide suspect for Missoula, MO PD
- Man with a gun call on Stanford Drive
- Bank robbery investigation (Skagit State Bank – Downtown)
- Several shooting investigations:
  - S. 27<sup>th</sup> Street
  - 2400 Block Montgomery
  - 2200 Block E. Fir
  - N. 30<sup>th</sup> – Skagit Valley Mobile Manor

### **GOAL #2**

***IMPROVE THE WAY PATROL OPERATION SERVICES ARE DELIVERED TO THE COMMUNITY FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCREASING EFFICIENCY, REDUCING COST OR IMPROVING OUR OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS.***

### ***DIVISION WIDE OBJECTIVES:***

#### **Objective #1**

Develop staffing plan and begin implementation for remaining “zones”, to provide city-wide zone officer coverage.

Lieutenant Greg Booth

### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Patrol Officers completed a survey, outlining which zones they were interested in working, providing supporting information for their top choices.
- Deployment Review Group met for the purpose of:
  - Identifying issues related to zone assignments and supervision
  - Squad vs. Zone Team concept
- Sergeants went through a series of brainstorming exercises intending to help identify the appropriate course of action for final zone assignments and structure of supervision
- As a result of these efforts, a plan outlining the following was developed:
  - Final zone assignments for each squad patrol officer
  - Sergeants assigned to each zone for supervision and oversight of zone operations
- Plan will be implemented in spring 2013.

#### **Objective #2**

Research costs/feasibility of installing wall-mounted screens (TV's) in the Patrol Squad Room, for display and monitoring of city-wide camera system (downtown, walking trail, parks, etc.).



Lieutenant Greg Booth

**NOT ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Due to city budget concerns, this project was not pursued in 2012. May consider re-looking at this concept in the future.

**Objective #3**

Review (in conjunction with Records Division) options for transition to digital recording equipment for Officers report/case work dictation and Records personnel transcription.

Lieutenant Greg Booth

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Researched and budgeted (2013 budget submittal) for first round of digital recorders.
- Developed use procedures and policies with Records Division.
- STOP Grant funds were located, and in late 2012 the initial recorders were purchased.
- Initial Trial and Evaluation phase implemented with “4” patrol officers.
- As a result of the positive T&E period, full Patrol Division implementation planned for early 2013.

**Objective #4**

Research costs/infrastructure needs/feasibility of future transition to assigned, dual-purpose laptops for Patrol Officers.

Lieutenant Greg Booth & Department Tech Group

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Reviewed concept with Information Services personnel, identifying current capacity and infrastructure issues, as well as hardware costs and maintenance/repair issues.
- Will review in 2014 to determine feasibility – possible funding sources (grants, etc.), and realistic timeline for potential implementation.

**GOAL #3**

***CONTINUE OUR INTERNAL STAFF DEVELOPMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCREASING THEIR SKILLS AND ABILITIES TO MEET FUTURE OPERATIONAL AND LEADERSHIP NEEDS.***

***DIVISION WIDE OBJECTIVES:***

**Objective #1**

Provide at least eight hours of training for officers who have successfully completed the Lead Officer selection process.

Lieutenant Greg Booth

**NOT ACCOMPLISHED:**

- No “new” Lead Officers in 2012
- Administrative review of Lead Officer program in progress.

**Objective #2**

Complete continuing education requirements for officers moving into special assignments.

Lieutenant Greg Booth

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Officers Ben Green and Brandon Liukko completed their field training and were assigned to patrol squads
- PPT Officer Zimmer attended: Auto Theft Investigation (16 hours), Gang Court Expert (8 hours), NW Gang Conference (40 hours), Sergeant’s Academy (40 hours)
- Officers Shaddy, Cohen and Johnston: Basic Collision Investigation (40 hours)
- Officer Jones (new Range Officer): Graham Combat Tactical Shooting Course (24 hours)
- Officer Shaddy SWAT Basic (40 hours)
- Officers Graham, Reed, Serrano and Green – Crisis Intervention Training (24 hours)
- Officers Reed and Curry – Basic Russian for Law Enforcement (8 hours)
- SRO Oster and NRO Dowhaniuk – School Safety Officer Academy (24 hours)
- NRO Gerondale – Instructor Development (40 hours)
- 5 PTO team members attended WSTOA conference:
  - Urban Sniper
  - Specialty Impact Munitions
  - Pistol / Rifle
  - Vehicle Assaults/Takedowns
- Range staff development included:
  - 2 Graham Combat Course
  - 1 attended NRA Tactical Instructors course
- Officer Reed attended Washington State Organized Retail Crime Alliance conference

**Objective #3**

Complete an “Active Shooter” training block for all commissioned staff.

Sergeant Mikel Moore, Officer Zach Wright & Officer Josh Maxwell

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- All MVPD commissioned staff received a full day of Active Shooter Response training in July 2012.

- Training included classroom covering basic techniques and tactics, and practical exercises with noise interference, volunteer victims, and guns firing “blank” rounds. The curriculum is based on the tactics developed by the NTOA and taught nationally to officers and tactical teams.

#### **Objective #4**

Continue our squad level commitment to training on leadership, police field skills, career development topics, contemporary officer safety/use of force tactics, or other related topics. Sergeants will see that at least three training opportunities are made available to squad staff.

All patrol squad Sergeants

#### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- All patrol squads took part in a variety of in-service training, with topics including:
  - Active Shooter Response
  - Officer Down Rescue
  - Bank Robbery Response
  - Officer Involved Shooting
  - Pole Camera
  - Search Warrant
  - Breaching Techniques
  - Ballistic Shield Techniques
  - Code Enforcement (city)
  - Drug Dog Deployment
  - Use of spit nets, hobbles and flexcuffs
  - Building Searches
  - Felony-High Risk Vehicle Stops
  - LED reviews
  - K-9 set-up/containment/deployment
- Lead Officers Chris Zimmer and Brandon Young attended the Results Group “Sergeant Academy”.

#### **Objective #5**

Complete and submit a proposal for approval of an “additional” Department Firearms Qualification course (NRA Handgun Course of Fire – 20 rounds).

All Range Staff

#### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- From 2011-2012, the MVPD range staff reviewed alternate courses of fire to include various NRA and CJTC certified courses, to include as options for additional qualification use.
- During the review period, additional directed training occurred for staff to include:
  - Primary hand shooting (non-supported)
  - Support hand shooting (two hand, supported)
  - Support hand shooting (non supported)

- Transitioning from primary to support hand
- Firing from a low ready (primary and support hand)
- The above listed skills have been demonstrated at an acceptable level by MVPD staff in both stationary and tactical shooting drills.
- In early 2013, the NRA 20-round handgun course was submitted to the Chief for final approval and adoption as a Department qualification course.

## **Objective #6**

Complete orientation, field training and transition to patrol squads for all new officers hired in 2012.

Lieutenant Greg Booth, Officer Walter Martinez, Officer Tobin Ruxton,  
Officer Mike McClaughry & Officer Dustin Richardson

## **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Officer Ben Green, hired in 2011, completed the WSCJTC Basic Academy and our FTO program (primary FTO – Dustin Richardson) in early 2012 and was assigned to Patrol.
- Officer Brandon Liukko, hired in 2012, completed the WSCJTC Basic Academy in 2012 and our FTO program (primary FTO – Paul Shaddy) in early 2013 and was assigned to Patrol.

## **GOAL #4**

***REDUCE THE FEAR OF CRIME AND INCIDENCE OF CRIME BY INCREASING THE COMMUNITY'S AWARENESS OF DISORDER ISSUES AFFECTING OUR COMMUNITY AND HELPING THEM UNDERSTAND CONTEMPORARY POLICING PRACTICES AND THEIR ROLE IN DELIVERING POLICE SERVICES.***

## ***DIVISION WIDE OBJECTIVES:***

### **Objective #1**

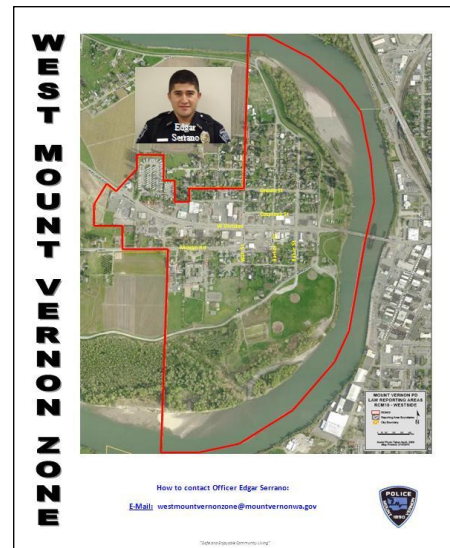
Continue to work with citizens and business owners throughout the city, focusing on identified areas that have experienced a rise in disorder and/or criminal activity, and developing targeted response plans individualized to their unique circumstances.

All Patrol Squads

## **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- See Patrol Division:
  - Goal #1 / Objective #3

## **Objective #2**



Participate in the Skagit Organized Retail Theft group, for the purpose of reviewing the expansion of our Retail Theft program and enhancing our communication with businesses on local theft activity trends and offenders.

Lieutenant Greg Booth & Officer Brien Reed

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Officer Reed attended “6” Organized Retail Theft group meetings during 2012, providing an invaluable link between law enforcement and area businesses.
- The relationships developed through this partnership have greatly enhanced our communication with area loss prevention staff and the efficiency in which we provide services through education and enforcement.
- Officer Reed regularly forwards internal communications with photos from area stores to assist in identifying and prosecuting our repeat offenders.
  - Coordination with retail outlets has enabled us to develop documentation on these types of offenders, providing us with needed support in charging several suspects with the enhanced crime of “Theft with Extenuating Circumstances”
- Officer Reed’s connection with our larger retail businesses helped build informational support and documentation when developing the Mount Vernon “Pedestrian Interference” municipal code.

**Objective #3**

Look for opportunities for “zone” officers to meet with residents/business owners in their assigned zone to discuss and problem-solve issues affecting area quality of life.

All Zone Officers

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

Some examples include:

- Officer Serrano assumed responsibility for the West Mount Vernon zone in February 2012. As part of his effort to get to know his zone, Officer Serrano spent a shift walking door to door in the West Mount Vernon community with Mayor Boudreau. The purpose of this effort was to:
  - Introduce himself to the zone businesses and residents
  - Get a feel for the concerns and fears of those living and working in West Mount Vernon
  - Develop a network for communication and problem-solving issues in their community
- Downtown Zone Officers Shaddy and Jones were active in communicating and problem-solving issues with residents and businesses in their zone:
  - Tulip Festival planning meeting, directed patrol during the street fair and a follow-up meeting
  - Three dedicated “Downtown Emphasis” shifts throughout the year.
    - Bikes were utilized to allow officers a more intimate connection with the zone and facilitate field contacts with residents and businesses.

- Met with the Block Watch on S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street reference concerns over activity at several neighborhood residences. Residents were very complimentary of the efforts from Officers Shaddy and Jones in helping bridge the communication between residents and MVPD.
- Digby Heights:
  - Zone Officers met with a zone resident who had attended our Citizen's Academy regarding neighborhood speeding and other vehicle issues. Reviewed the concerns and forwarded items to the Traffic Safety Committee to review. The committee declined to implement the suggested ideas, however the resident was pleased to be heard and involved in the review process.
  - Worked with Viewmont Mobile Estates management on several trailers involved in disorderly issues (fights/graffiti/vandalism) – two residents linked with the activity have since been removed from the trailer park.
  - Met with residents on South 27<sup>th</sup> Street reference concerns about a drug house in the area. Task Force was brought into the process and consulted on options. This remains an on-going issue.

### **GOAL #5**

***COLLABORATE WITH OTHER AGENCIES AND CITY DEPARTMENTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF SHARING RESOURCES AND INCREASING OUR EFFECTIVE ABILITY TO POLICE THE COMMUNITY.***

### ***DIVISION WIDE OBJECTIVES:***

#### **Objective #1**

Review our 2011 firework plan with the Fire Department and create a joint plan for addressing fireworks use/safety for the 2012 July 4th celebration.

Lieutenant Greg Booth

### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Preplanning occurred with Mount Vernon Fire Marshal Steve Riggs which included:
  - Review of previous years staffing response plans
  - Public education campaign (written material, signage, media, PSA's)
  - Safe handling and storage of fireworks
  - Coordination of response between MVPD and MVFD personnel and
  - Enforcement plan
- Continued to focus additional patrol resources toward enforcement of state and local fireworks laws and fireworks confiscation
- Directed patrol shifts (2 officers) were conducted between June 30<sup>th</sup> and July 5<sup>th</sup>
- 102 commissioned staff hours were dedicated to fireworks patrol and enforcement
  - 58 dispatched calls to fireworks complaints
  - 11 on-view incidents involving fireworks
  - 19 recorded contacts resulting in education/warnings



- No citations were issued

## **Objective #2**

Continue building toward integrating additional agencies into the county-wide Crisis Negotiations Team.

Lieutenant Greg Booth & Negotiation Team Members

### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Burlington Police Department joined the Crisis Negotiations Team in February 2012, bringing the team to “8” members with representatives from:
  - Mount Vernon Police Department
  - Skagit County Sheriff’s Office
  - Sedro Woolley Police Department
  - Burlington Police Department

## **Objective #3**

Continue our directed patrol emphasis efforts with neighboring local and state law enforcement agencies, focused on offender monitoring, gang intelligence and documentation.

Lieutenant Greg Booth & Sergeant Mikel Moore

### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- PPT Officer Zimmer continued to enhance our close working relationship with neighboring LE agency pro-active teams and gang personnel. Examples of joint directed enforcement and education efforts conducted include:
  - Gang emphasis patrols at the Cascade Mall
  - Graffiti interpretation, suspect identification and search warrant service
  - Drug arrests
  - Education and training with businesses and service agencies throughout the county
  - 5 shifts with DOC, conducting home checks on their more serious offenders
  - Coordination with ICE/Border Patrol on information relating to “7” known deported felons/gang involved persons reportedly back in the local area – resulting in several arrests
  - Assisted Whatcom County SO on a burglary investigation, stolen property recovery
  - Assisted Snohomish County SO on documentation reference “3” gang members arrested in their county.

## **Objective #4**

Utilize the recently developed county-wide training calendar, to help identify, develop, schedule and coordinate annual and specialized staff training

Lieutenant Greg Booth and Patrol Sergeants

### **PARTIALLY ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Coordinated and scheduled training for several courses including Firearms, Tactical Emergency Medicine, Defensive Tactics, and Simunitions.
- Due to administrative/financial impacts developed in 2012, the county-wide training calendar is no longer in use.

# ***SPECIAL OPERATIONS***

## ***2012 Accomplishments***



### **KULSHAN CREEK NEIGHBORHOOD RESOURCE**

#### **OFFICER JON GERONDALE**

The Kulshan Creek neighborhood is comprised of approximately 710 multi-family housing units, with an estimated 2500+ resident population. Many nationalities are represented including Latino, Russian and Ukrainian.

In 1997, both the Kulshan Creek Neighborhood Station & Neighborhood Resource Officer position were established to address the increasing issues of crime, fear and social disorder. This effort is broad in scope, and involves numerous governmental and community agencies and social services. Resources have focused on addressing issues of gang and non-gang related violence, property crimes, and developing connections with neighborhood residents to address underlying issues of complacency and apathy.

In the last 16 years, residents have reported a significant increase in the quality of life in Kulshan Creek, as they have been empowered to regain "ownership" of their neighborhood. The following pages help illustrate some of the statistical and empirical data that best demonstrate the increasing health and vitality of the Kulshan Creek Neighborhood. For additional information, please contact the Kulshan Creek Neighborhood Resource Officer.

## **GOAL #1**

***CONTINUE OUR COMMITMENT TO REDUCING CRIME AND DISORDER WITHIN THE KULSHAN CREEK NEIGHBORHOOD TO LEVELS CONSISTENT WITH HISTORICAL TRENDS.***

### **Objective #1:**

Conduct a 2011 service assessment to verify current levels of crime, disorder and quality of life in the Kulshan Creek Neighborhood are consistent with the established neighborhood historical trends. Collect available information on newly implemented & on-going projects or programs to determine overall effectiveness and measure of impact. All together, this data will be compiled into a usable format for identifying issues of concern, areas for directed patrol, and continually measuring service needs within the neighborhood.

### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- The Kulshan Creek neighborhood generated 844 calls for service in 2012, compared to 819 in 2011, 957 in 2010, 1100 in 2009, 1037 in 2008 and 1227 in 2007. As with most statistical data, fluctuations are to be expected from one time period to the next; however, when looking over time from 2003-2012, total calls for service have shown a downward trend, with a total drop of 42%.
- The top five calls for service in 2012 were:
  - Noise (91),
  - Suspicious (90)
  - Civil (72)
  - Juvenile (42)
  - Mal Mis (40)
- Total Police Service Calls by type:

Quality of Life (395) 46.8%

Quality of life police calls include noise, suspicious, abandoned cars, graffiti and traffic enforcement. When residents' expectations about behavior and quality of life in their neighborhood spur them to call about these types of issues, it is clear that the neighborhood norms have shifted and residents no longer tolerate unwanted/criminal activity. Quality of life service calls have consistently been the highest category of service calls in the Kulshan Creek neighborhood over the last 10-year period.

Service (222)                      26.3%

Service calls include 911 hang-up, accident, welfare check, found property, and civil. Calls of this type have been the second highest category in the Kulshan Creek neighborhood over the last 8-year period.

Crime (161)                      19.1%

Unfortunately, in spite of every effort, crimes will continue to occur. Crime service call types include vehicle prowling, theft, trespassing, burglary, alarm, and removal. Crime service calls have been as high as 403 in 2003.

Dangerous (66)                      7.8%

Dangerous call types include domestic, fight, assault, and weapon offense. The overall percentage of these types of calls has been holding steady below 10% of total service calls to the neighborhood. So as the overall calls have declined, so have the “dangerous” call types. In 2003, dangerous service calls totaled 107 while in 2012 they totaled 66.

### **Objective #2:**

Conduct periodic reviews (weekly/monthly) of Kulshan Creek neighborhood service call history to quickly identify emerging crime and/or disorder issues. Develop targeted response plans to address identified issues.

### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- NRO Gerondale continues to review Kulshan Creek neighborhood service calls daily, enabling him to conduct investigative follow-ups, management updates and social service agency referrals. Consistently monitoring neighborhood activity enables NRO Gerondale to identify potential issues early in their development, allowing him to implement needed response strategies to prevent crime trends from taking hold within the Kulshan Creek neighborhood.
- NRO Gerondale regularly attends Operations Talk meetings, bringing a unique perspective to the problem-solving process for issues throughout the greater community. When issues affecting surrounding neighborhoods are identified, he is quick to offer assistance in addressing their root cause, to prevent problems from festering and spreading to the Kulshan Creek neighborhood.

### **Objective #3:**

Organize and/or develop activities and programs that encourage participation from all demographics within the neighborhood, to increase resident's sense of ownership within the Kulshan Creek Neighborhood. Historical examples include: neighborhood clean-up/beautification projects, street festival, garden project, etc.

## ACCOMPLISHED:

- January 2012
  - Field Trip to North Cascades for Eagle Watching – 40 youth participated in the trip, and the Skagit Valley Herald published an article summarizing the trip.



- February 2012
  - Neighborhood Activity and Art Project with Kulshan Youth along the Kulshan walking trail. Project was a part of the program with US Forest Service and Catholic Community Services – over 40 youth participated, followed by an article published by the Argus newspaper.
- March 2012
  - Field Trip to North Cascades to learn about elk and their habitat – over 50 youth participated in the trip.





- April 2012
  - Field trip to Ebey's Landing for annual 2012 Shorebird Festival – 40 youth participated in the trip.



- May 2012
  - Field trip to Guemes Island for nature hike and noxious weed eradication – 35 youth participated in the trip.



- Presentation at Washington Elementary School Head Start regarding personal safety for youth.



- June 2012

- Kulshan Creek Street Festival – over 40 residents, local businesses and service agencies hosted individual booths – several hundred residents attended.
- Hosted “open gym” at Bakerview Park indoor soccer facility – over 100 youth participated in the event.

- July 2012

- Field trip to Woodland Park Zoo – 25 youth participated in the trip.





- Kulshan Creek Neighborhood Station clean-up project



- August 2012
  - Mount Vernon Boys and Girls Club field day event.
  - Field trip to Baker Lake for restoration project – 25 youth participated in the trip.

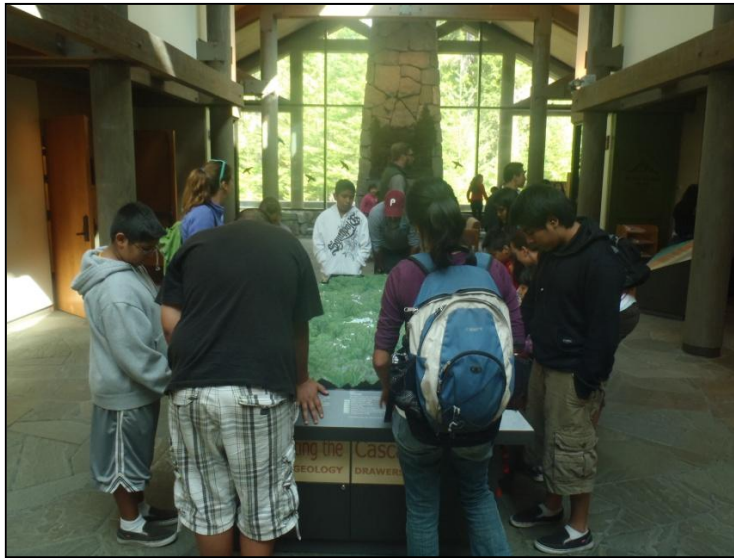


- September 2012

- Kulshan Creek Street Festival – the 2<sup>nd</sup> event of the year featured 40 residents and local businesses with individual booths. Hundreds of local residents attended.



- Field trip to Newhalem and Ross Lake Dam – 35 youth participated in the field trip.



- October 2012

- Awarded \$500 grant from the Mount Vernon Arts Commission – glass mosaics for the Skagit Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services office.
- Awarded \$2000 grant from Skagit County Child and Family Consortium to begin “Movie Might” program (See Goal #2 / Objective #2 for description of program).

- November 2012

- Completed filming and editing of TV10 and TV26 public access program “Hands of the Community”

- December 2012

- Coordinated and hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Kulshan Youth Program year-end celebration with US Forest Service and Catholic Community Services. Over 100 youth and parents attended the event, held at Laventure Middle School.
  - “3” kids received new bicycles in recognition of their consistent participation in the youth program
  - All youth who attended received donated program t-shirts.
- Youth presentation to “2” separate Skagit-Island Head Start classrooms about the role of police and personal safety.



- Coordinated Winter Break movie night with Cascade West Apartments – 30 youth attended the event, and several raffle prizes were awarded.



#### Objective #4:

Identify opportunities to communicate successes within the Kulshan Creek neighborhood for the purpose of changing community perceptions – targeted toward community members living/working outside the neighborhood.

#### ACCOMPLISHED:

- In March 2012, NRO Gerondale presented information on the Kulshan Creek neighborhood and his roles and responsibilities to the 2012 Citizen Academy class. This is a great opportunity to educate community residents on MVPD's neighborhood policing efforts and how they impact the neighborhood and community as a whole.
- Worked with TV10 and TV26 in developing a public access program "Hands of the Community" to recognize youth from the neighborhood who had participated in numerous public art projects intended to beautify and prevent graffiti in some of the Cities hardest hit areas.
- See Objective #3 for additional details

#### **Objective #5:**

Educate neighborhood partners on MVPD policing strategy within Kulshan Creek.

#### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- As noted previously under activities and community projects, NRO Gerondale continues to work very closely with neighborhood business owners, property owners/managers and outside social and referral agencies regarding criminal and disorder issues within the Kulshan Creek neighborhood.

The various activities, neighborhood projects and festivals are all opportunities for NRO Gerondale to communicate with neighborhood residents on our policing strategies, services and resources. They also provide positive and educational alternatives for neighborhood youth, who may otherwise become involved in less-desirable activities.

### **GOAL #2**

***CONTINUE TO DEVELOP POLICING SERVICES CONSISTENT WITH KULSHAN CREEK NEIGHBORHOOD NEEDS AND THE DEMANDS OF THE RESIDENTS, BUSINESS OWNERS, AND SCHOOLS WITHIN THE NEIGHBORHOOD.***

#### **Objective #1:**

Review 2011 service assessment to identify potential social/community resources and services needed within the neighborhood to address new or emerging crime/disorder and social/quality of life issues.

#### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- As in previous years, NRO Gerondale continued to review neighborhood crime and social disorder issues on a daily basis to insure criminal investigations occur in a timely manner and the needed services and resources are identified and available.

An involved/committed neighborhood resident develops pride and ownership and, in turn, does not tolerate criminal behavior. The events described in the previous section were



designed with this sole purpose in mind. The best and most effective way to prevent new/emerging crime trends is to have a community that will not tolerate such behavior. The work by NRO Gerondale goes far in developing that neighborhood expectation.

### **Objective #2:**

Research and seek out funding sources and existing programs to support Kulshan Creek neighborhood activities through grants/donations.

### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- NRO Gerondale continues to be very successful in seeking and raising funds for a variety of neighborhood projects and activities. Sharing the financial burden between community groups, residents, businesses and government agencies is critical for sustaining the growth and development of the Kulshan Creek neighborhood.
  - \$5000 grant application for the Skagit County Child and Family Consortium Community Empowerment Mini-Grant
  - \$500 grant from Mount Vernon Arts Commission to create glass mosaic with local youth for display at Skagit Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services office.
  - \$2000 Skagit County Child and Family Consortium mini-grant, to begin “Movie Might” project geared toward middle and high school aged youth. Intent of project is to show movies that focus on social issues facing local Latino youth (drug, discrimination, gangs, etc.), then hosting a discussion about the respective film/issue after the movie.
    - Money awarded was used to purchase portable audio/video equipment to show movies targeted for youth.
    - Movie host sites to include: Neighborhood Station, Casa de San Jose Apartments and Villa Santa Maria Apartments.
    - 1<sup>st</sup> “Movie Might” night in December: “Stand and Deliver”, facilitated by Sea Mar Clinic.
  - “3” new bikes donated by Mount Vernon Kiwanis Club were awarded to youth who had the highest participation in the program at the annual year-end celebration.

### **Objective #3:**

Maintain sustainability of current, on-going projects and programs and partnerships within the Kulshan Creek neighborhood.

### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Many of the activities and projects that occur in the neighborhood have become regular, annual events, such as:
  - Street fairs/festivals
  - Movie nights
  - Clean-up projects
  - Various educational and after school programs sponsored through the Kulshan Creek Kids program

- Maintaining the types of programs outlined here is especially challenging when public funding sources can be inconsistent and unpredictable. NRO Gerondale has worked hard to develop ties with the greater community to educate partners on the importance of sustaining these projects and activities in the Kulshan Creek neighborhood. His efforts are directly responsible for the on-going successes seen in the positive community improvements.
- NRO Gerondale continues to aggressively pursue alternative funding sources, from local partners to more regional / national grant opportunities, as outlined above in Objective #2.
  - \$5000 grant application for the Skagit County Child and Family Consortium Community Empowerment Mini-Grant
  - \$500 grant from Mount Vernon Arts Commission
  - \$2000 Skagit County Child and Family Consortium mini-grant

#### **Objective #4:**

Maintain the Kulshan Creek Neighborhood Station facility to allow continuity of current projects and programs. This includes annual maintenance of interior and exterior of facility and continual review and evaluation of facility needs/upgrades to meet the ever-changing demands of the neighborhood and facility users.

#### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- This occurs on an annual basis through coordination with MVPD maintenance person Joe Baltz and the contracted grounds maintenance company.
- Also this year, NRO Gerondale coordinated several work-parties for:
  - Neighborhood gardens
  - Maintenance of the Neighborhood Station facility
  - Site cleaning

#### **Objective #5:**

Manage the Kulshan Creek Neighborhood Station schedule to ensure most efficient use of facility by community groups.

#### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- This is an on-going responsibility - NRO Gerondale monitors to insure the various user agencies maintain communication and effective use of the Neighborhood Station facility.

### **GOAL #3**

***MAINTAIN OUR COMMITMENT TO PROVIDING NEIGHBORHOOD RESIDENTS AND MVPD PERSONNEL WITH EDUCATION ON CURRENT CRIMINAL ISSUES IMPACTING THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND CRIME PREVENTION TECHNIQUES.***

#### **Objective #1:**

Continue to identify new and innovative ways to inform residents on neighborhood issues, educate on upcoming events, and increase exchange of information between Mount Vernon Police and the Kulshan Creek community.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- NRO Gerondale hosted and facilitated many activities in the Kulshan Creek neighborhood, with the focus on education and enhancement of life quality:
  - Neighborhood Art Project on the Kulshan Trail, with US Forest Service and Catholic Community Services
    - 40 youth participated
    - Newspaper article published
  - Development of TV10 and TV26 public access programs about Mount Vernon Youth Art...“Hands of the Community”
    - Includes over 22 interviews
    - Translation into Spanish
  - Presentation at Washington Elementary Head Start – personal safety for youth
  - Hosted “Open Gym” at Bakerview Park – over 100 youth participated in the event, which included soccer and art activities.
  - With the assistance of Catholic Community Services, installed “2’ art murals painted by youth from Casa de San Jose and Villa Santa Maria apartments, along the Stonebridge walking trail.
  - Presentation for the international students at Skagit Valley College – personal safety, local driving laws, and domestic violence statutes.
  - Coordinated and hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Kulshan Youth Program year-end celebration with US Forest Service and Catholic Community Services.
    - Over 100 youth and parents attended.

**Objective #2:**

Maintain awareness of the gang activity and influence throughout the greater community, focusing on how those influences may impact the Kulshan Creek neighborhood. Exchange relevant gang-related information involving the Kulshan Creek community with our Gang Resource Officer and attend gang meetings.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- NRO Gerondale continued to attend the gang meetings hosted by PPT Officer Zimmer and consistently provides documentation of gang involved youth/activity associated with Kulshan Creek.
- Officer Gerondale is familiar enough with the neighborhood youth that he is able to closely monitor and report on the activities of neighborhood residents who are involved in the gang subculture.

**Objective #3:**

Maintain frequent contact with neighborhood apartment and residential managers. Coordinate meetings with neighborhood managers to develop problem-solving strategies that address present or emerging neighborhood-wide issues.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- NRO Gerondale has regular contact with the managers of the residential complexes within the Kulshan Creek neighborhood. Partnering with managers allows for the informal exchange of information related to criminal activity, larger neighborhood issues of concern/safety, residents of concern, and quality of life improvements. When repeated concerns arise involving criminal or disorder issues related to specific tenants, NRO Gerondale assists management with the appropriate landlord actions to remove unwanted residents from the neighborhood.

**Objective #4:**

Attend Operations Talk meetings to provide updates on Kulshan Creek neighborhood activities and trends.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- NRO Gerondale regularly attended Operations Talk, providing information regarding neighborhood activities and areas of focus, as well as his assistance in problem-solving crime and disorder issues throughout the city.



**WEST HILL NEIGHBORHOOD RESOURCE**



## OFFICER JEFF DOWHANIUK

### **GOAL #1**

***CONTINUE OUR COMMITMENT TO REDUCING CRIME AND DISORDER WITHIN THE WEST HILL NEIGHBORHOOD TO LEVELS CONSISTENT WITH COMPARABLE NEIGHBORHOODS AND HISTORICAL TRENDS.***

#### **Objective #1:**

Conduct a service call assessment for the West Hill Neighborhood to verify current levels of crime/disorder and quality of life. This information will be compiled into a usable format to identify emerging crime trends or quality of life issues to formulate directed response plans.

#### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- 656 total police service calls were reported in the Westhill neighborhood for 2012, compared to 658 in 2011, 650 in 2010, 685 in 2009, 749 in 2008 and 867 in 2007.
- Types of service calls for Westhill include:
  - Quality of Life/Disorder      220      34%
  - Crime-related                      187      29%
  - Service                                185      28%
  - Threatening/Dangerous      64      9%
- No major crimes occurred in the neighborhood or on campus in 2012.
- MVHS accounted for 21% of the total calls to the Westhill neighborhood.
  - MVHS top service calls:
    - Alarm (18)
    - Theft (12)
    - Information (11)
    - Drug Problem (10)

- Trespassing (9)
- MVA, Fight (7)

**Objective #2:**

Periodically review (weekly/monthly) service calls in the West Hill Neighborhood, to identify and address crime and disorder issues before they can take root within the neighborhood.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- NRO Dowhaniuk conducts a daily review of service calls within his neighborhood, to include the MVHS campus. As areas or issues of concern are identified, NRO Dowhaniuk brings together resources to problem-solve and develop strategies to target identified persons/residences, etc. to mitigate the impacts and thereby reduce needed police resources. Through consistent monitoring, NRO Dowhaniuk is able to quickly respond to and remove problems as they develop, keeping neighborhood crime consistent with historical maintenance levels
- NRO Dowhaniuk attends Operations Talk to share current information regarding activity levels and trends within the Westhill neighborhood. Additionally, he teams with Patrol, Crime Prevention, Investigations and Special Operations staff in problem-solving and addressing crime and quality of life impacts in his neighborhood.

**Objective #3:**

Continue to work with neighborhood residents and school officials in identifying and problem-solving conflicts between the temporary neighborhood users (MVHS students/staff) and the full-time residents. (Historical issues include: noise, parking/traffic, loitering, smoking...)

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- As noted above, NRO Dowhaniuk conducts daily reviews of service calls in the Westhill neighborhood to maintain his familiarity and awareness of neighborhood crime and disorder issues. In 2012, the Westhill neighborhood did not experience any major spikes or trends in activity other than typical/expected juvenile disorder issues around the high school campus.
- NRO Dowhaniuk worked with Code Enforcement and CSO's on several abandoned/unoccupied residences in the neighborhood. These properties were attracting transients and kids in the area for partying/smoking, graffiti, general disorderly behavior, etc. Through regular patrol checks, trespass warnings and coordinating with owners/banks these concerns were addressed minimizing the range and scope of impacts on the neighborhood quality of life.

## **GOAL #2**

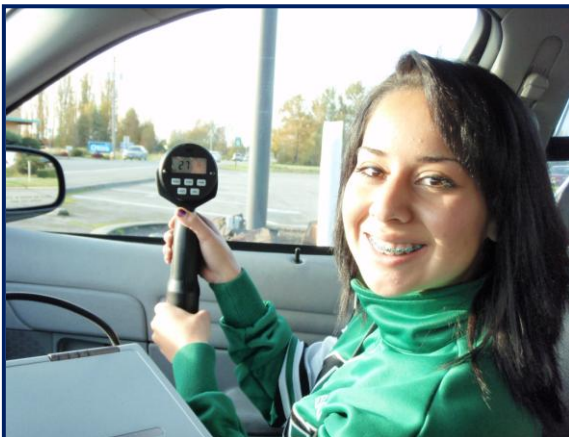
### ***PROVIDE POLICING SERVICES CONSISTENT WITH THE NEEDS OF WEST HILL RESIDENTS.***

#### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- The following training and educational topics were provided this year:
  - “2” Theft Prevention presentations for all students who work at the Mount Vernon High School student store
  - Gang awareness training was provided to all MVHS staff throughout the year
  - Active Shooter training provided for MVHS staff/administration, in conjunction with MVPD’s Department-wide Active Shooter Response training
  - Assisted the TEAM Officer, instructing several classes throughout the school year and attending several school-based graduation ceremonies
  - Participated in the Annual Science Night, at MVHS. Prepared a display booth, and provided equipment (night vision/thermal imager) for students to experience



- Worked as a mentor with a Skagit Valley College student interested in pursuing a career in law enforcement
- Attended and helped facilitate 9<sup>th</sup> grade student orientation at MVHS
- NRO Dowhaniuk served as a Culminating Project Advisor, for “25” students who had chosen Law Enforcement as their career choice and project topic





- NRO Dowhaniuk continues to instruct the “Introduction to Criminal Justice” class, which is an elective class available to juniors and seniors. Each semester, 25-35 students enroll in the class.
  - Several guest speakers were included in the class, including:
    - WSP Bomb Squad
    - Skagit County Probation
    - Domestic Violence
    - Crisis Negotiations
    - Criminal Investigations
    - PTO (Police Tactical Operations)
  - Hosted (2) rounds of Parent/Teacher conferences
  - Provided student tours of the Mount Vernon Police Department campus and the Skagit County Jail facility
- NRO Dowhaniuk continues his active membership on the following committees which meet on a continual basis:
  - MVHS Safety Assessment Team (8 meetings)
  - MVHS Emergency Preparedness Team (2 meetings)
  - MVHS Lockdown Review Team
  - MVHS Multi-Discipline Team (Special Ed Placement Committee) (2 meetings)
  - Skagit County Probation and ARIS (4 meetings)
  - Skagit County Risk Assessment Team
  - Skagit County Probation meetings for school administrators and security (6 meetings)
  - Collaborated with SRO Oster and the MVHS Intervention Specialist to identify incoming 9<sup>th</sup> grade students showing concerning behaviors or levels of disciplinary action
  - Attended monthly Gang Intelligence meetings hosted by PPT Officer Zimmer
- NRO Dowhaniuk continues to participate in MVHS staff and administration meetings discussing safety related topics such as vehicle and bus traffic routes, gang influences on campus, identifying and problem-solving school security and safety issues, student’s behavior issues and surrounding neighborhood impacts.
- NRO Dowhaniuk works closely with school district administration, MVHS staff and students on a variety of issues. To enhance his skill, he attended the following training in 2012:
  - Rapid Responder Security Website,
  - School Safety Officer Academy,
  - De-escalation Strategies,
  - Handgun Combative Skills Course,
  - School Resource Officer Conference.

### **GOAL #3**

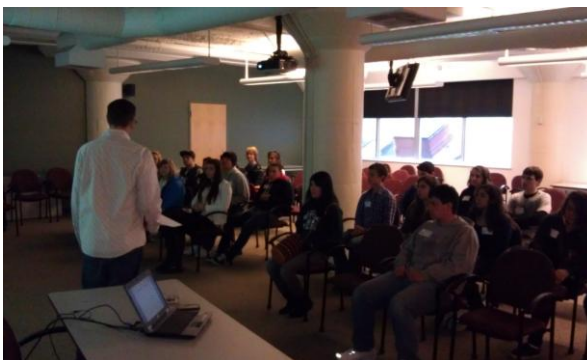
***CONTINUE TO EDUCATE RESIDENTS, SCHOOL STAFF, STUDENTS, AND PARENTS REGARDING THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE WEST HILL NEIGHBORHOOD RESOURCE OFFICER.***

#### **Objective #1:**

Review and determine need to update the West Hill NRO communications plan: to include Preparatory Academy, Citizen Academy, and possible extension into social media opportunities (Twitter/Nixle, Facebook, MVHS Website, MVPD Website, "Officer Jeff Blog", etc.)

### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- NRO Dowhaniuk continues to develop and enhance his communication systems within the school and surrounding neighborhood. He continues to utilize the MVSD website and facebook page to provide information for students and parents on school activities and educational opportunities related to his function of school safety and security.
- NRO Dowhaniuk is immersed in his neighborhood, participating in a variety of events and opportunities for him to connect and communicate with residents and visitors:
  - Science Night at MVHS
  - Sporting events/Dances on campus
  - 9<sup>th</sup> grade student orientation activities
  - New MVHS staff orientation
- NRO Dowhaniuk facilitated a student field trip to Starbucks as part of a community awareness component for students.



- MVPD's Preparatory Academy X was held in June 2012, attended by 12 High School students. Most of the students were from MVHS and many had participated in the "Introduction to Criminal Justice" course. The remaining students were from neighboring

districts. The Westhill NRO and Middle School SRO develop the curriculum schedule, arranged for the needed instructors, training locations and equipment, and coordinate the participant applications. This program provides high school students with some inside instruction and hands-on experience in a variety of law enforcement functions. It is a great opportunity for students looking to law enforcement as a career.



### **Objective**

Attend the

**#2:**

monthly gang meetings for the purpose of maintaining an awareness of community gang trends and influences and how those may impact the MVHS and Westhill neighborhood.

### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- In 2012, NRO Dowhaniuk attended the Skagit County Gang Intelligence meetings hosted by MVPD Officer Zimmer at the Cascade Mall in Burlington.

His attendance provides a critical intelligence link between the MVHS campus and surrounding community gang influences enabling NRO Dowhaniuk to keep high school staff/administration abreast of current gang trends that may impact the campus directly or student activities on/around the campus.

## **GOAL #4**

***COORDINATE OR FACILITATE RESOURCES FOR WEST HILL RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES IN AN EFFORT TO REDUCE CRIME AND NEIGHBORHOOD DECAY.***

### **Objective #1:**

Identify opportunities to meet with neighborhood residents in the evening or on weekends, for the purpose of criminal investigation follow-ups, survey opportunities, and identification of areas for directed patrol.

### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- NRO Dowhaniuk regularly investigates and follows-up on police calls for service in the Westhill neighborhood. Some examples include:
  - Neighbor conflict over property lines, parking, etc.
  - Abandoned residences on 5<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Streets
  - Assisted Crime Prevention on a Fir Hill survey, which is a neighboring zone to Westhill

- Contacted a resident on N. 4<sup>th</sup> street, following up on her concerns about drug activity and excessive foot traffic to some neighboring residences

### **Objective #2:**

Remain in communication with active Block Watches groups in the Westhill neighborhood, for the sharing of information and problem-solving issues of residents safety and quality of life.

### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- NRO Dowhaniuk maintains communication with neighborhood residents and Block Watch members. Several contacts were made during 2012 regarding quality of life issues in the Westhill neighborhood including:
  - Parking around the MVHS campus (particularly during evening sporting events)
  - Youth loitering/smoking/trespassing on private property around the school
  - Traffic concerns before/after school hours
  - Several abandoned homes that students were accessing
- Provided Block Watch presentations in November for the N. 6<sup>th</sup> Street and E. Division Street groups, outlining his role in the neighborhood and updating residents on current activities.

### **Objective #3:**

Review possible implementation of a “volunteer” parent group, in conjunction with the Mount Vernon School District, for the purpose of campus monitoring, assisting with pedestrian and traffic flow, special events, etc.

### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- After extensive review with the school district and MVHS administration, the decision was made to forego this project at this time. No plans for future review.

### **Objective #4**

Review possible implementation of a “Criminal Justice” club at MVHS for the purpose of recruiting and teaching students the importance of good citizenship and volunteerism in the greater community.

### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Reviewed with MVHS staff and administration. Program is being developed and implemented through the school district with NRO Dowhaniuk in an advisory role.

### **Objective #5:**

Participate in Operations Talk meetings to provide updates on campus activity and collaborate with other Departmental personnel on problem-solving issues of crime and quality of life throughout the community.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Westhill NRO Dowhaniuk participated in “4” Operations Talk sessions, providing valuable information and investigative intelligence regarding on-going issues relating to the MVHS campus and surrounding neighborhood.

**ADDITIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

- NRO Dowhaniuk assisted with a funeral detail in his neighborhood. Concerns over community safety during the event were considerable, and NRO Dowhaniuk helped in addressing issues with residents.
- Facilitated communication with students regarding their Immigration march/campus walkout in May.
- Criminal Justice presentation for “10” Emerson High School students
- During the summer months of 2012, NRO Dowhaniuk worked with SRO Oster and PPT Officer Zimmer on a directed patrol mission, addressing gang and drug activity in the city. (See PPT for outcomes).

## MIDDLE SCHOOL RESOURCE

### OFFICER MIKE OSTER



*Officer Mike Oster is the current Mount Vernon Police Middle School Resource Officer, and has been in the position since 2008. Mike is assigned to the campuses of **LaVenture** and **Mount Baker Middle Schools**, as well as taking responsibility for the campus of **Little Mountain Elementary** which is attached to Mount Baker Middle on the same campus. Mike serves a combined population of approximately 1,600 students and 185 staff at the three schools, as well as providing security to a combined 56 acres (20 + 36) of school property.*





## **GOAL #1**

***DEVELOP AN OPEN AND COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH STUDENTS, STAFF, AND PARENTS TO BETTER UNDERSTAND AND RESOLVE ISSUES FACING SCHOOLS AND POLICE.***

### **Objective #1:**

Review and identify opportunities to develop/deliver classroom presentations for students on law enforcement related topics or the SRO function. (Topics under consideration include: Cyber-safety, Texting Do's & Don'ts, Bullying)

### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- The classroom environment provides a great opportunity to develop student relationships and breakdown the stereotypical views that school aged students often have of police officers. Students can also learn about their community, legal systems and their responsibilities as citizens in a democratic society.
  - As in prior years, Officer Oster taught a section on 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment/Search and Seizure for a social studies class at LaVenture
  - Hosted question and answer sessions for health class at Mount Baker.
  - SRO Oster also continues to provide an annual cyber safety course for the health classes at both middle schools, focusing on topics including:
    - Texting “responsibly” – the pitfalls of sending photos, etc.
    - Bullying, both in person and through social media (Facebook, MySpace, etc.)
    - Awareness of predatory behavior on-line, and the safety concerns with meeting persons through social media sites
    - Safety issues related to releasing/posting personal information
  - SRO Oster taught **23 class periods** during the school year.
- Officer Oster led advisory counseling group sessions with small student groups at LVMS four times during the year.
- Mike participated in “Shop with a Hero” for Christmas at Walmart.
- Hosted an informational booth at the MVHS Science fair with Westhill NRO Dowhaniuk.





### **Objective #2:**

Continue to attend formal/informal school staff meetings monthly to hear and actively discuss current topics and issues, roundtable student behavior concerns and provide education/training for staff.

### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Officer Oster gave updated gang and safety information to staff members at both LVMS and MBMS during the year
- He also met regularly with school district administration and security to pass on intelligence related to middle school students transitioning to the high school campus
- During the year, SRO Oster participated in three building level risk assessments throughout the district
- Provided “active shooter” response training for staff at both campuses

### **Objective #3:**

Provide orientation instruction for in-coming students on school safety and the role of the SRO.

### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- As in years past, SRO Oster participated in several 7<sup>th</sup> grade student orientation events at both LVMS and MBMS. Meeting students at the beginning of their middle school transition helps foster a lasting connection between SRO Oster, each student, and their parents.
- Mike also provided several question/answer opportunities in the classroom for new students helping acquaint them with his role and function as an SRO.



### **Objective #4:**

Attend a minimum of one parent group meeting at each middle school (LMS & MBMS), for the purpose of introducing parents to the SRO function and discussing campus safety issues.

### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- SRO Oster met with parent groups at each middle school, providing gang orientation training.
- Throughout the year, Officer Oster was directly involved in several intervention meetings and counseling sessions with parents regarding their student's on-campus behavior or other safety/criminal concerns.



### **GOAL #2**

***PROVIDE A CAMPUS ENVIRONMENT THAT IS SAFE, SECURE, AND FREE OF CRIME FEAR.***

#### **Objective #1:**

Review and make necessary updates to site surveys for both Laventure and Mount Baker Middle Schools, with a focus on security and CPTED issues.

### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Officer Oster is actively involved, on a daily basis, in the review of safety/security procedures within each middle school campus. His continual contact with school administrators, staff, and security personnel enables him to participate in the evaluation process of critical safety and CPTED issues.
- He continues to meet monthly with the Safe Routes to Schools Grant Committee, with a focus on grant funding to address safety issues around the MBMS campus.
- SRO Oster handles the bulk of police service calls associated with the LaVenture Middle School, Mount Baker Middle School and Little Mountain Elementary campuses. The following outlines some of the service call data:
  - Calls for service:
    - LVMS Total: 64 (including 9 alarm complaints)
    - MBMS Total: 46 (including 7 alarm complaints)
    - LMES Total: 18
  - The predominant call types include: **Alarms, Theft, Weapon Offenses** (most commonly a student with a pocket knife or other similar object defined as a weapon), and **Drug Problem** (most commonly a student with marijuana in their possession).

- Officer Oster's case investigations involving incidents on the middle and high school campuses resulted in 21 referrals and/or arrests.
- Officer Oster provided informational training for middle school staff on both campuses, on preparation for an "active shooter" incident on campus. Training also included what staff could expect from a police response to the campus.
  - This training was directly in support of our Department-wide active shooter training conducted in summer 2012.

## **Objective #2:**

Utilize above surveys to identify areas of concern and develop strategies to increase safety, visibility and directed patrol.

## **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- As noted above, traffic around the Mount Baker Middle school campus is an on-going safety concern with so many students coming and going. In 2012, Officer Oster met with MV Engineering and Traffic Officer Wenzl to evaluate and problem solve the traffic congestion problem occurring at both opening and closing hours of Little Mountain Elementary. A plan was developed with MV Engineering making a formal proposal to the MVSD Board. Portions of the plan have been implemented. The upcoming focus will be addressing additional parent drop-offs and pick-ups in the 2013-2014 school year when the district restricts bus transportation to kids living further than one-mile from campus.

## **Objective #3:**

Continue to work with school staff and administration on updating current security/safety plans and conduct school-wide staff training, with a focus on enhancing safety for both staff and students

## **PARTIALLY ACCOMPLISHED:**

- SRO Oster continues direct involvement in an on-going process of evaluating the MVSD's overall safety/evacuation and emergency response plans.
- He has attended several trainings specifically tailored to school campus lockdown planning, and has been an active participant "at the table" in discussions with school district administrators.
- The school district is currently working toward developing district-wide security plans, which has been an on-going multi-year process. Officer Oster brings significant experience and expertise in this area, while still maintaining separation and objectivity, allowing the district to develop their safety programs within their own guidelines.

## **Objective #4:**

Continue monitoring traffic safety issues surrounding both campuses. Coordinate with schools, traffic unit and Traffic Safety Committee to effectively address identified concerns.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Officer Oster worked closely with MVPD Traffic Officer Wenzl, the City Traffic Safety Committee, Safe Routes to School Grant Committee and MV City Engineering to identify and address traffic safety concerns around the middle schools.
- Oster continues to work cooperatively with other agencies or units to address traffic issues at the intersection of LaVenture and Section and was a member of Safe Routes to School grant team which led to federal money for improvements in the area.
- Oster conducted proactive patrol, monitoring traffic at both school campuses to include Little Mountain Elementary 48 different times, either by running radar in the area, monitoring in his patrol car, or by joining crossing guards at crossing areas before and after school hours.



**GOAL #3**

***PROVIDE A CONSISTENT LEVEL OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN ACTIVITIES ON SCHOOL CAMPUS AND OTHER DIVISIONS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT.***

**Objective #1:**

Continue to utilize available communication opportunities to update patrol staff on student and campus issues. (roll call, e-mail, campus visits, breaks/informal discussions, etc.)

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Officer Oster attended, on average, at least one roll call weekly and invited officers for coffee at both middle schools.
- Throughout the year, Officer Oster worked “15” shifts to cover patrol staffing, 9 as shift supervisor and assisted other officers, detectives or worked special events.
- Officer Oster responded to 62 separate calls or follow-ups on the middle school campuses.
- Officer Oster continues to communicate very well with staff through e-mail, roll call briefings, informal contacts regarding school related issues. When information is developed about off-

campus issues, Officer Oster is quick to disseminate the details to patrol staff for their safety and prevention efforts.

**Objective #2:**

Attend gang meetings to provide updates on campus issues and integrate outside intelligence into the campus/school environment.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Officer Oster attended four gang meetings and assisted PPT Officer Zimmer in hosting when he was unavailable.
- Officer Oster is very knowledgeable of dissemination requirements, and is adept at sharing what intelligence can be shared with school staff. This is a critical function to allow them to stay updated on security threats that may impact campuses and surrounding areas.
- Attended three county level assessment meetings to discuss specific middle school students behaviors of concern and how they may impact school campus safety and student security.

**Objective #3:**

Continue to provide assistance to Priority Policing Officers during gang investigations, in order to identify and reduce gang influences on the middle school campuses.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- SRO Oster continues to be a key component in gathering, interpreting and disseminating gang intelligence. Working at the middle school environment, provides Oster the opportunity to readily identify gang involved youth, develop information sources, document gang behaviors and begin intervention strategies. He regularly confiscates gang-related intelligence in the form of artwork, drawings/graffiti, clothing items, etc.
- Schools provide a neutral gathering point for youth engaged in gang involved behaviors. Officer Oster's role is to:
  - Document gang behavior to help identify their level of commitment and involvement
  - Contact parents when students exhibit gang behaviors
  - Provide parents, students and staff resources about gangs and the impacts they have on youth and the campus environment
  - Provide staff training for working with gang involved youth

Officer Oster consistently provides the most gang intelligence for tracking and documentation of the local gang environment. As a former gang officer, he understands the importance of continually updating gang intelligence files.

- During the summer months, SRO Oster and Westhill NRO Dowhaniuk conducted a directed patrol emphasis with PPT Officer Zimmer with a focus on gang and drug activity. Outcomes are listed under PPT accomplishments.

**Objective #4:**

Participate in Operations Talk meetings to provide updates on campus activity and collaborate with other Departmental personnel on problem-solving issues of crime and quality of life throughout the community.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- SRO Oster participated in five Operations Talk sessions, providing valuable information regarding activity involving local youth.

**GOAL #4**

***DELIVER POLICING SERVICES CONSISTENT WITH INDIVIDUAL CAMPUS NEEDS.***

**Objective #1:**

Attend regular meetings with Skagit County Youth & Family Services and Middle School staff for evaluation of at-risk students and to identify appropriate courses of action and provide needed resources.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Officer Oster sits on a county wide risk assessment team comprised of police, school and mental health specialists designed to address students that pose a security risk to overall campus safety. The assessment also involves the development of alternatives in addressing that particular student's needs while keeping the overall school campus safe. During 2011, Officer Oster was directly involved in three county level risk assessment meetings
- Mike also meets regularly with school administrators and counselors to discuss student and safety issues.
- SRO Oster is in regular communication with Juvenile Probation, keeping track of specific probation or release conditions related to students at the middle schools and high school.

**Objective #2:**

Conduct and review a 2011 service call assessment at both campuses, to identify areas of concern and develop targeted response plans.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- See Goal #2 / Objective #1

**Objective #3:**

Continue attending athletic events/weight-lifting and review developing an alternative activity for students during evening or weekend hours.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Officer Oster, in conjunction with LVMS staff, hosted 63 mornings of Falcon Fitness Club in the schools weight room
- Mike was able to facilitate the school's acquisition of new weight equipment, when Riverside Health club went through some upgrading
- Mike attended six after school sporting events involving LVMS or MBMS teams
- SRO Oster also provided a law enforcement presence at five weekend dances







## **TRAFFIC UNIT**

**OFFICER TOM WENZL and OFFICER RICK VANDER GRIEND**  
(Rotated Out January 2012)



### **GOAL #1**

***EDUCATE THE COMMUNITY REGARDING FACTORS THAT INCREASE DRIVER AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY AND REDUCE THE POTENTIAL OF BECOMING INVOLVED IN A MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT.***

#### **Objective #1**

Develop public service announcements (PSA) in conjunction with Mount Vernon TV10 on traffic & pedestrian safety related topic. Tailor announcements to changing or new laws implemented in the area of traffic safety.

**ACCOMPLISHED:** A total of 10 PSA's were created and are currently airing.

#### **Objective #2**

Continue to instruct at least two traffic safety presentations to support our Department's volunteers or other programs such as COPP, Preparatory Academy, Citizen Academy, etc. Review and update class materials for current laws and practices.

**ACCOMPLISHED:** Conducted Prep Academy, Citizen Academy and COPP. I've met with Sgt Nelson about freshening up the presentations.

### **Objective #3**

Continue our Department's focus on the "Safe Routes to School" grant program through directed patrol, education and enforcement.

**ACCOMPLISHED:** We continue to meet at least once per month. Analysis for both Centennial, Little Mountain and Mt Baker schools have been done. Revision and planning for School Safety Patrol has been addressed.

### **Objective #4**

Continue to give presentations on Impaired and Distracted Drivers to local Drivers Education classes.

**ACCOMPLISHED:** One class monthly on distracted and impaired driving. Additionally, a second session to include motorcycles and motorist safety around motorcycles has been added.

## **GOAL #2**

***PROVIDE CONSISTENT EDUCATION, ENFORCEMENT AND ENGINEERING ATTENTION TO AREAS OF THE COMMUNITY DETERMINED TO HAVE A HIGH FREQUENCY OF TRAFFIC RELATED PROBLEMS.***

### **Objective #1**

Review the 2011 accident, traffic stop and enforcement data to determine the "Top 10 Areas" to focus patrol efforts on the identified areas of concern. Work with Engineering and DOT to obtain information to correlate speed and/or volume versus MVA statistics.

**ACCOMPLISHED:** Statistics provided to Admin for the yearend report. I continue to monitor troubled areas, with suggestions to the Traffic Safety Committee for improvements.

### **Objective #2**

Based on the above review, conduct focused enforcement efforts in the identified high-incident areas, designed to address driver's behavior affecting overall roadway safety.

Partially Accomplished: No high risk areas have been identified. However, based on citizen complaints of speeding vehicles, stop sign violations, or other complaints, certain areas of high traffic offenses have been given extra attention.

### **Objective #3**

Continue periodic reviews of current signed “school zones” and ‘playground zones’ for possible extensions or alterations to improve student/pedestrian and traffic safety. Coordinate efforts with City Engineering, Traffic Safety Committee, Safe Routes to School, etc.

**ONGOING:** Part of the Safe Routes program also identifies school zone issues and possible solutions. Over the past few years, many alterations to road design have been identified and implemented.

### **Objective #4**

Prepare annual report summarizing previous year accident and enforcement statistics. Prepare Goals and Objective report for the upcoming year.

## **GOAL #3**

***COLLABORATE WITH OTHER POLICE AGENCIES AND CITY DEPARTMENTS TO MAXIMIZE THE USE OF AVAILABLE RESOURCES AND PROVIDE A PROFICIENT LEVEL OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY.***

### **Objective #1**

Continue to participate in directed traffic emphases with outside agencies focused on enforcement and/or education in order to share resources and address traffic problems on a wider community level.

**ACCOMPLISHED:** Worked with the SCSO at the Oyster Run. 2012 was a rough year for the SCSO Traffic Division, so very little ‘training days’ were offered. I partnered with both Whatcom Co SO and Bellingham PD. For 2013 SCSO has a new traffic supervisor and conversations for new training have occurred.

### **Objective #2**

Officers from the Traffic Unit, work a minimum of “2” DOTS/X52 emphases throughout the year.

**NOT ACCOMPLISHED:** With exception of working the Oyster Run. I tend to allow other officers the opportunity to sign up for this overtime and monitor it to make sure there is adequate coverage. As a department, we continue to take an active role on the county wide emphasis patrols.

### **Objective #3**

Provide at least one in-service training block for patrol staff on traffic-related topics such as collision investigation/report writing, SECTOR (e-ticketing), school zone issues, identified "Top 10 Areas" within the City, etc.

**ACCOMPLISHED:** Began providing 'Traffic Tip of the Week' emails as new issues arose; specifically with changes in laws or new trends. A SECTOR lab was run to allow people to play with or ask questions about the software.

#### **Objective #4**

Attend annual motorcycle training courses with neighboring agencies focusing on skills development, recertification, and team-building. Attend annual NAMOA Conference, and annual training at WSP Shelton.

**PARTIALLY ACCOMPLISHED:** Recertification training was done with Bellingham PD. The NAMOA Conference was out of state, and I was not able to attend training in Shelton.

#### **Objective #5**

Continue monthly 4 hour training blocks addressing riding skills, crime scene diagramming, use and familiarization of Lidar measuring equipment. Partner with other divisions within the Department to train and share technologies and equipment.

**NOT ACCOMPLISHED:** This needs to continue to be a goal, but is somewhat difficult as a one man unit. My off duty employment affords me opportunity to continue to refine my riding skills.

### **GOAL #4**

#### ***TRAIN AND CERTIFY THE NEW TRAFFIC OFFICER***

#### **Objective #1**

Update and modify FTO manual. Work with new officer familiarizing with the unique duties and responsibilities in the Traffic Unit. Train and discuss use of specialty equipment.

**PARTIALLY ACCOMPLISHED:** The manual is partially finished, but was postponed until such a time as a new traffic officer will be appointed.

#### **Objective #2**

Mentor new rider in the area of motor operation; including risk acceptance, awareness, and management. Familiarization with the motorcycle features, controls and equipment. Basic rider training in preparation for Police Motor School.

**PARTIALLY ACCOMPLISHED:** The manual is partially finished, but was postponed until such a time as a new traffic officer will be appointed

### **Objective #3**

Prepare a training schedule for other specialty skills required of a new officer and mentor through the process.

## **GOAL #5**

### ***SPECIALTY EQUIPMENT***

### **Objective #1**

Inventory current equipment to assess its condition. Evaluate whether it is still viable to maintain and review options for retirement, repair or replacement.

**ACCOMPLISHED:** Both motorcycles are still in good operating condition. The traffic car is showing its age. Repairs are constant. For 2014, we need to consider rotating it out. For 2015 we need to consider rotating the second motorcycle, assuming we are able to resume a two officer Traffic Unit.

### **Objective #2**

As new technology and equipment becomes available, T&E for use with Mount Vernon PD Traffic Unit.

### **NOTHING NEW FOR 2012**

### **Objective #3**

Obtain quotes for equipment to be submitted for the next years budget.

### **ACCOMPLISHED**

### **Objective #4**

Considering current fiscal issues, explore alternate means of purchasing equipment through grants, leases, and/or loans.

**ACCOMPLISHED:** Worked with Washington Traffic Commission on possible grant money for equipment.

**PRIORITY POLICING**

**OFFICER CHRIS**



**ZIMMER**





## **GOAL #1**

***REDUCE CRIME AND FEAR OCCURRING IN IDENTIFIED AREAS OF OUR COMMUNITY TO LEVELS EQUAL TO OR BELOW THE COMMUNITY AVERAGE.***

### **Objective #1:**

Continue to enhance our ability to track and remove from the community identified/chronic offenders (both juvenile and adult) through collaborative efforts with Juvenile Probation, DOC, municipal and county prosecutors and judges.

### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- PPT Officer Zimmer continued to work closely with many outside LE agencies, tracking serious and repeat offenders with a focus on removal from the community to prevent associated crime and disorder issues from occurring
  - Five shifts dedicated to partnering with DOC and Juvenile Probation during home checks
  - Exchanged intelligence information with ICE/Border Patrol on known deported felons that were reportedly back in our community, leading to several arrests.
- Intelligence information developed by PPT Officer Zimmer led to several assists with outside agencies actively investigating felony crimes:
  - Homicide suspect out of Montana
  - SWPD luring investigation
  - Burglary suspect out of Whatcom County
  - Assisted Snohomish County SO with the documentation of several known gang members arrested in their jurisdiction

### **Objective #2:**

Continue collaboration with Special Operations, Patrol, CID and Crime Prevention staff to enhance our capabilities in identifying, problem-solving and developing solutions for identified crime trends within specific areas of our community.

### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- During the summer months, conducted a directed emphasis targeting gang and drug activity in our community. (See Goal #3 / Objective #1 for details)

- Conducted one week of emphasis during our initial implementation of the newly established city ordinance addressing Pedestrian Interference
  - Focused on identified areas: I-5 on/off ramps, commercial corridors and adjacent affected zones
  - Provided education on specific elements of the ordinance and zone maps to violators as part of our initial warning/education phase
  - Tracked violators contacted to insure enforcement occurred after initial education
  - Provided daily updates for patrol staff with locations and violators to minimize duplication of efforts and efficient/effective response
  - Submitted Pedestrian Interference warning cards to Records for tracking in Spillman
- Two bike patrol emphasis days, with Patrol staff and Zone Officers, targeting the following locations:
  - City walking paths
  - Downtown Business District
  - Riverside Drive and E. College Way businesses, looking for signs of transient activity, property damage, etc.
  - Kulshan Creek Neighborhood
  - Schools
  - City parks: Bakerview, Kiwanis, Lion's and Edgewater
- Provided undercover surveillance for the funeral detail of a local "high-profile" gang member killed in 2012
- Assisted CID with the investigation of a prolific gang member wanted in an assault/intimidation case – resulted in 20-month prison sentence
- Assisted CID with several drive-by shooting cases involving known local gang members including:
  - E. Fir Street
  - S. 27<sup>th</sup> Street
  - Skagit Valley Mobile Manor (N. 30<sup>th</sup>) – fight/shooting
  - US Marshal shooting incident
- Assisted Patrol with several significant case investigations including:
  - Walmart Robbery
  - Safeway Robbery
  - Arrest of suspect out of Whatcom County resulting in burglary charges and the recovery of stolen property
  - Arrest of stabbing suspect stemming from Burlington PD investigation

These examples highlight the importance our Department places on these types of investigations and the skills and expertise of our Special Operations squad personnel. Community support and confidence can be shattered under these circumstances without quick and effective response strategies.

### **Objective #3:**

Maintain and/or develop communication and collaboration with outside agencies including SCIDEU, Border Patrol (ICE) and other identified emphasis teams and intelligence groups working within Skagit County to enhance our directed patrol and investigative efforts.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Prepared for and hosted “12” county-wide gang intelligence meetings, for the purpose of sharing, developing, and tracking gang activity throughout our local and regional jurisdictions. Agencies represented include: Skagit and Whatcom County law enforcement, Adult Parole, Juvenile Probation, Border Patrol/ICE, Skagit County Youth & Family Services, and school district staff & security, mall security.  
(See Goal #2/Objective #1)

**Objective #4:**

Conduct a minimum of one directed patrol emphasis with DOC for the purpose of conducting home checks, targeting offenders with outstanding warrants or parole compliance concerns.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Coordinated with DOC on five separate dates conducting home visit checks on DOC offenders in parole/probation status. Several arrests were made for a variety of probation violations.

**GOAL #2**

***CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS TO LIMIT GANG ENCROACHMENT IN OUR COMMUNITY, KEEPING GANG ACTIVITY AT OR BELOW HISTORICAL LEVELS AND DEVELOP LONG-TERM STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS ITS VARIED IMPACTS ON RESIDENT’S QUALITY OF LIFE.***

**Objective #1:**

Continue our coordination and management of the monthly gang intelligence meetings with a focus on exchanging information with Juvenile Probation, Parole, prosecution, schools, social services and other law enforcement agencies.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- PPT Officer Zimmer handled the management/oversight, development and coordination of the agendas / meeting minutes for “12” county-wide gang intelligence meetings.
- Attendees include: schools, law enforcement, probation (adult/juvenile) and intervention specialists.
- In addition to the exchange of intelligence and information, these regular meetings provide a consistent venue for developing and maintaining partnerships among various agencies in the

criminal justice system and allow for seamless sharing of critical information. Together, these provide for a comprehensive response strategy to address gang issues and their influence on community life.

**Objective #2:**

Continue to provide public education and training on local gang history, current activity and trends for law enforcement, parents, teachers, schools, social & community groups. Focus of training will include ways to recognize gang behavior, enhance early intervention efforts and minimize their ability to establish a power base within the community.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Education and training provided by law enforcement professionals is a critical component connecting our Department and the citizens who live and work in Mount Vernon. Knowledge directly translates into understanding and power when the community faces issues of crime and social disorder. Citizens given tools to make decisions and better understand the underlying beliefs and sub-culture influencing criminal behavior are better able to assist law enforcement in the investigative and prosecution process.

In 2012, PPT Officer Zimmer provided training on gangs and gang sub-culture for:

- Mount Vernon City Council (3x)
  - Skagit Red Cross Volunteers
  - MVPD Citizen Academy
  - Office of Juvenile Court staff members
  - MVSD teacher's and SRO's – gang recognition
  - COPP Volunteers
  - Law and Justice Council
  - MVPD Preparatory Academy
- PPT Officer Zimmer also instructed "High Risk Traffic Stop" training during our 2012 Preparatory Academy.
  - Safe Routes to School Bicycle Rodeo instructor

**Objective #3:**

Conduct our annual gang file review/purge process, to update intelligence files and identify current/active local gangs and gang members.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Officer Zimmer conducted the review and purge of all gang intelligence files in the first quarter of 2012. This process takes a minimum of 30-40 hours of focused, directed attention and is a critical function of our intelligence file maintenance.

The following outlines some of the gang file data for the 2012 purge:

- 73 gang files purged due to inactivity/no documentation
- Six known/documented “primary” youth gangs in Mount Vernon
- 18 gang files were updated with activity in 2012
- No new gang files were created in 2012

#### **Objective #4:**

Continue to take a pro-active approach to graffiti investigations to enhance our intelligence gathering, identify current gang activity/individual monikers, and to reduce incidence of graffiti to a level at or below that experienced in the early 2000’s.

#### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- PPT Officer Zimmer is directly involved in the documentation and interpretation of graffiti found throughout our community. Graffiti comes in a variety of forms from tagger (typically done by single individuals as a form of expression) to gang-related (which can show gang memberships, roll-call lists, claims of territory, intent to assault other gang members, gang monikers, etc.). Effectively understanding graffiti that shows up in a community is critical to addressing the underlying causes and defining the appropriate response strategies.
  - Starting in 2010, our community began experiencing widespread tagger graffiti of the moniker “HYPE”. Incidents occurred over a three year period throughout our community including several residential areas, as well as our commercial corridors downtown and along Riverside Drive and E. College Way.
    - In 2012, SWPD made an arrest of graffiti suspects in-progress at a local school.
    - PPT Officer Zimmer was able to link their suspect to “48” cases of “HYPE” graffiti in our community resulting in several felony arrests and charges.
  - Throughout the year, PPT Officer Zimmer completed several search warrants related to graffiti
  - West Mount Vernon experienced widespread graffiti overnight in December 2012, affecting ten different locations on businesses and residential property.
    - West Mount Vernon Zone Officer Serrano took the lead on the case and PPT Officer Zimmer assisted in the investigation
    - After executing a search warrant at a residence, four suspects were identified and felony level charges have been forwarded
    - The West Mount Vernon community was relieved and ecstatic with the swift nature of the investigation and arrests

#### **Objective #5:**

Continue to develop cooperation with neighboring agency resources and gang prevention officers by combining resources for directed enforcement, patrol activities and community education.

### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Collaborative efforts involving PPT Officer Zimmer and SWPD Gang Resource Officers include:
  - SCIDEU assistance on several drug residences in Mount Vernon
  - Coordinated with BPD's Community Resource Officer on gang-related investigations including several tagging incidents
  - Gang Intelligence meetings and note dissemination
  - PPT Zimmer regularly exchanged information and consulted with BPD, SWPD and SCSO directed patrol/CID staff on gang activity affecting jurisdictions county-wide

### **Objective #6:**

Review opportunities to enhance our statistical/tracking system for known gang involved persons, involving use of Spillman gang information data, court/prosecution data, juvenile probation, etc.

### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- PPT Officer Zimmer has continued to enhance our tracking systems (Spillman, gang ID sheets, and Excel spreadsheets), while encouraging neighboring agencies to maintain consistency in documentation steps and criteria.

## **GOAL #3**

***MONITOR CITY-WIDE CRIME TRENDS AND DEVELOP RESPONSE STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS IDENTIFIED ISSUES AND MINIMIZE THEIR IMPACTS ON THE COMMUNITY.***

### **Objective #1:**

Priority Policing Officers, in conjunction with Crime Prevention staff, will review crime data to track certain identified projects or crimes of focus to enhance our ability to quickly respond to changes or fluctuations in criminal activity. These may include crimes such as vehicle prowling, graffiti, gang assaults and intimidation, and other identified crime trends that may develop.

### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- In 2012, Mount Vernon communities experienced a significant rise in the impact of drug sales and the property crimes related to drug activity. PPT Officer Zimmer focused the majority of his time and efforts in collecting intelligence directly related to focus efforts to address these issues. (See Objective #2)
- During the summer months, PPT Officer Zimmer teamed with SRO Oster and Westhill NRO Dowhaniuk on a directed emphasis designed to:

*"Further develop our understanding of local drug related issues, to better detect, investigate and suppress drug crimes"*

- Outcomes included:
  - Seizure of 14 grams methamphetamine, 20 grams heroin, 10 grams marijuana and numerous items of drug paraphernalia
  - Investigation of two drug related robberies
  - Assisted SCIDEU with surveillance on houses in core problem areas
  - Coordinated an undercover drug buy
  - Identified numerous target residences / persons for operational focus

*“Continue our gang suppression efforts through identification, tracking and investigation of gang-related crimes and activity”*

- Outcomes included:
  - Arrest of suspect in drive-by shooting on E. Fir Street
  - Arrest of gang member wanted for felony assault – also in possession of handgun at time of arrest
  - Arrest of gang member suspect on warrants, after surveillance
  - Recovered two additional handguns during separate arrests of gang-involved suspects

**Objective #2:**

Collaborate with Patrol “Zone” Officers on identified crime trends and/or gang-related issues to develop cooperative and effective enforcement response strategies designed to target geographic areas or identified persons of interest.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Examples of collaboration include:
  - Drug House: 600 Block N. 1<sup>st</sup> – contacted Upper Skagit regarding rental conditions for tenants who were receiving financial assistance from the tribe
  - Drug House: 200 Block W. Lawrence – coordination with property owner on initial tenant information/status – house eventually taken in foreclosure
  - HYPE and RESPO graffiti/tagging in downtown corridor
  - Drug House: 3000 Block Withers Place – provided surveillance for monitoring activity
  - Drug House: 800 Block N. 8<sup>th</sup> – provided directed patrol emphasis and contacts at residence to identify tenants/visitors involved in drug and neighborhood theft
  - Drug House: 1300 Block S. 27<sup>th</sup> – coordinating with SCIDEU on cameras, monitoring drug sales on facebook
  - Problem House: 900 block S. 21<sup>st</sup> – coordinated with landlord on eviction and arranged for home visit with DOC
  - Drug House: 1100 Block S. 15<sup>th</sup> – assisted with developing information for search warrant “Maintaining a Drug Residence” – maintained enforcement presence to address neighborhood impacts

**Objective #3:**



Utilize existing and look for opportunities to enhance communication systems within our organization, with a focus on efficiency for effective intelligence gathering and dissemination to front-line staff. This may include roll call updates, intelligence board updates, electronic files/tracking systems, updates to currently used or outdated forms, other...

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- PPT Officer Zimmer is regularly reviewing and looking for additional effective means to document, track, and disseminate information to departmental staff. Communication of critical information is often situation based using the above noted mediums.
- Continued to develop and enhance our internal tracking mechanisms for gang contacts, and felony assaults involving gang members.
- As noted in Objective #4, Operations Talk has developed into an important internal communication mechanism for exchanging intelligence directly relating to current issues impacting our community at the neighborhood and more macro level. Officer Zimmer provided extensive information linking involved persons to various issues of crime and disorder.

**Objective #4:**

Participate in Operations Talk meetings for the purpose of problem-solving issues of crime and quality of life throughout the community.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- PPT Zimmer participated in five Operations Talk sessions, providing valuable information and investigative intelligence regarding on-going neighborhood issues relating to gang and drug activity.

## **K-9**

### **OFFICER ZACH WRIGHT & LUTHER**



Although K-9 is under the Special Operations squad, it's considered part of the Patrol Division when it comes to planning & deployment. Specific K-9 goals or benchmarks are set throughout the year by the handler and supervisor and they work to see the goals of the Division are met.

#### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

- 161 deployments in which K9 is working a scene for persons, evidence, etc.
- Tracked, located/captured 33 suspects for the following crimes:
  - Assault

- Burglary
  - Burg/Sex Offense
  - Robbery
  - Eluding/Warrant
  - Warrant
  - Hit and Run/Eluding
  - Vehicle Assault
  - VUCSA
  - DUI/Eluding
  - Vehicle Prowl
  - Violation No Contact Order
- Provided K-9 services to agencies throughout Skagit County. During the 2012 calendar year, Officer Wright and K-9 Luther assisted outside agencies on 19 separate investigations:
    - Anacortes                      3
    - Burlington                      6
    - Sedro Woolley                      2
    - Skagit County                      4
    - State Patrol                      4
  - Completed over 170 hours of continuing education training. Training focuses on tracking, evidence searches, officer safety, bite work, e-collar training and is conducted with outside agency K-9 handlers
  - Officer Wright attended the spring Washington State Police K-9 Association conferences
    - Officer Wright also attended the WSPCA instructor meeting
  - 36 evidence tracks occurred where items were located including one handgun, discarded clothing, property, etc.
  - Six tracks involved locating the suspect's probable location but a capture did not result
  - Provided many community presentations & demonstrations on the K-9 program:
    - Citizen Academy
    - Preparatory Academy
  - Officer Wright conducted several patrol and PTO training sessions for officers on K9 tracking techniques, cover-officer expectations, containment do's and don'ts
  - Officer Wright co-instructed three sessions of "Active Shooter Response" training for the Department in 2012

## **ANIMAL CONTROL**

**ACO MEGAN PETTERSON**



### **GOAL #1**

***PROVIDE EDUCATION FOR THE COMMUNITY ON STATE AND LOCAL ANIMAL ORDINANCES.***

#### **Objective #1**

Continue working on the development of a public service announcement(s) (PSA) in conjunction with Mount Vernon TV10 on topics such as animal licensing, leash laws, nuisance issues (barking, waste), lost and found pets, and dangerous/potentially dangerous dogs.

#### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- ACO Petterson worked extensively on this project throughout 2012
  - Met with APD Animal Control Officer Padovan to collaborate on commercials to be aired in both Mount Vernon and Anacortes
  - Filming occurred on various dates in 2012 at the following locations
    - Parker Way Vet – Microchips and vaccination
    - Northwest Technical Academy, with four vet assistant students – proper pet care and spaying/neutering to control pet population
    - The Cat's Meow (in Anacortes) – additional spaying/neutering information
    - Additional field locations in Mount Vernon and Anacortes with ACO Petterson and ACO Padovan discussing
      - Leash laws
      - Aggressive dogs
      - Licensing
      - Lost/Found animals
  - Filming/editing completed and commercials are currently airing

## **Objective #2**

Attend selected community events, for the purpose of providing citizens an opportunity to educate themselves on animal-related issues.

### **PARTIALLY-ACCOMPLISHED:**

- No events were attended this year, however a couple were evaluated and determined the venue would not accomplish the intended outcome.
- Will re-evaluate in 2013

## **Objective #3**

Seek opportunities to present information on animal care, safety and maintenance, to Department staff, volunteers, and the community. Examples may include: roll call, COPP training, Preparatory Academy, Citizen Academy, criminal justice system agencies, local veterinary groups/associations, etc.

### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Animal Control Presentation – 2012 Citizen Academy Class
- COPP training: basic animal handling & current procedures for dog impounding, tracking and release.
- Instructor at Managers Network meeting, hosted by Crime Prevention, provided information relating to rentals and tenants with animals.
- See Goal #3 / Objective #2

## **Objective #4**

Research the viability of implementing an “Impounded Animal Log” on the Mount Vernon City Website. Providing citizens with immediate access to information on impounded or found animals, increases the likelihood of owner identification and reunification, and reduces the time and costs associated with the handling/impounding of strays.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- ACO Petterson worked throughout the year on development and implementation of the on-line Lost/Found Animal Log
  - Attended City website training with IS to learn initial use of the website and how to input/post information
  - Coordinated with Lt. Cammock on re-designing the Animal Control website page
  - Press Release on new City Lost/Found Animal Log
  - October/November: New log uploaded to City Website and functional
  - ACO Petterson continues to update the log daily

**Objective #5**

Conduct a licensing emphasis city-wide with the goal of increasing owner compliance with city dog and cat licensing requirements. Emphasis could include: informational mailings, directed patrol time at city parks, informational handouts for field contacts.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- ACO Petterson designed a spay/neuter & vaccination guide listing low-cost options and Mount Vernon veterinarian contact information
- Distributed “animal licensing” awareness letters to targeted neighborhoods in the Rosewood Development (Arbor Street, Rosewood Street and Briarwood Circle) and South 11<sup>th</sup> Street
  - Evaluation of the community response was mixed, with only two citizens purchasing licenses as a direct result of these efforts
  - Future education efforts will be re-evaluated

**GOAL #2**

***CONTINUE TO DEVELOP AND PROVIDE ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES CONSISTENT WITH THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY.***

**Objective #1**

Attend the 16-hour course, *Use of Force on Dangerous Animals*, in February 2012. The course will provide training on response to and handling of dangerous animals, proper use of equipment and specific field tactics.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- ACO Petterson attended the above training, receiving instruction on
  - How to defend herself against an attacking dog
  - Self-defense tools to consider for personal or vehicle carry (i.e. taser/bite stick)

**Objective #2**

Coordinate the purchase of a washer/dryer to be installed in the new evidence building.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Washer and dryer purchased and installed in new evidence building storage area.

**GOAL #3**

***COLLABORATE WITH OTHER DIVISIONS, POLICE AGENCIES, AND CITY DEPARTMENTS TO MAXIMIZE THE USE OF AVAILABLE RESOURCES AND PROVIDE A PROFICIENT LEVEL OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY.***

**Objective #1**

Continue to work in conjunction with Patrol, CSO's, Code Enforcement and Animal Control Officers from neighboring agencies, for the purpose of providing a multi faceted approach to problem locations or individuals, resource and equipment sharing, and information exchange on current industry trends.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Met with APD Animal Control Officer to review and assist in developing TV10 Animal Control commercials
- Monthly communication with SCSO Animal Control Officer Diaz and APD Animal Control Officer Padovan on topics such as:
  - Dangerous/potentially dangerous dog laws county-wide
  - Specific case investigations
  - Information sharing on Animal Control practices and policy development/enhancement

**Objective #2**

Conduct roll call training for patrol staff on the following topics: dealing with injured animals, and handling dangerous/potentially dangerous dog cases (declaration filing, handling, violation process, etc.).

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- ACO Petterson provided the following in-service training in 2012



- February 21<sup>st</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>: handling injured animals and unknown dogs to prevent duty-related injury/bites – recognizing dog behavior and body language
- March 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>: Potentially dangerous and Dangerous Dog investigations and follow-up
- June 5<sup>th</sup>: MVPD hosted Animal Abuse and Sex Crimes – course attended by ACO, CSO's, CID and Patrol

### **Objective #3**

Continue to monitor the dog park for proper use. Identify and address issues of rule compliance and safety.

#### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- ACO Petterson provides daily/weekly patrols and monitoring of dog park activity to insure compliance with safety rules and city ordinance
- Water fountain installed at the Dog Park
- No reports of dog fights or bites at the park during this period
- See Objective #4 for additional

### **Objective #4**

Review development of informational community events promoting responsible use of the dog park.

#### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- July: Coordinated with Parks and Recreation to provide information regarding licensing, and general Mount Vernon Animal Ordinances at the annual “Bark in the Park” festival at the Bakerview Park – Dog Park
- ACO Petterson regularly communicates with Parks and Recreation staff regarding complaints or issues related to the community's use of the Dog Park

### **Objective #5:**

Participate in Operations Talk meetings to provide updates and collaborate with Departmental personnel in problem-solving neighborhood issues.

#### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- ACO Petterson regularly attended Operations Talk during the 2012 operational year. On several occasions, she provided support services and current information relating to on-going neighborhood projects.

# ***CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION***

## ***2012 Accomplishments***



### **GOAL #1**

***APPLY CONTEMPORARY INVESTIGATIVE METHODS THAT ARE MOST LIKELY TO RESOLVE CRIMINAL CASES.***

#### **Objective #1:**

All cases that are referred to the Division will be assigned, investigated and cleared based upon solvability factors (nature/severity, timeliness, evidence quality for prosecution), and ensuring inclusion of impacted victims.

#### **Case Investigation Highlights:**

- Homicide
  - Husband reports his wife accidentally fell down the stairs and died as a result. Detectives suspected foul play
  - Every Detective was involved full-time for three weeks

- Over a hundred computer forensic hours were invested
  - Over 100 incident reports were completed by Officers/Investigators
  - Detectives worked with WSP Crime Lab/Team, Skagit County Coroner, a strangulation expert, HTCC to proof computer forensic work for interviews, Stanwood School District
  - Suspect arrested and court trial is pending
- Assisted Butte Montana PD – Homicide Investigation
  - Suspect was living in Mount Vernon but a person of interest in a Butte Montana homicide
  - MVPD Detectives assisted Butte Detectives with apprehension and interviews
  - Suspect currently serving 25-30 years for the crime
- Robbery
  - Downtown bank branch robbed, no injuries
  - Suspect identified, involved in multiple robberies in Seattle area
  - Suspect taken into custody by the FBI
- Stabbing
  - Case initially reported to have occurred on a MV walking trail
  - Investigation yielded it was falsely reported and actually occurred at Cascade Mall in Burlington
  - Burlington Police Department charged the incident
- Stabbing
  - Father and son had altercation with the son's acquaintance
  - The altercation turned to a physical assault where the victim was stabbed
  - Father and son were both charged, trial pending
- Bomb Threat
  - Suspect previously attended Skagit Valley College
  - Suspect was upset at staff over a funding issue and threatened harm to the school
  - Suspect was identified and arrested
- Sex Offense
  - 16 year old victim
  - 41 year old suspect charged
- Sex Offense
  - 13 year old victim
  - 34 year old suspect charged
- Sex Offense
  - 15 year old victim
  - 24 year old suspect charged
- Shooting Investigation
  - Father and son were both suspects in the case
  - Father and son both sentenced to correctional facilities
- Bank Robbery

- Downtown bank branch was one of four banks robbed by the suspect in Skagit, Snohomish and Whatcom Counties
  - Suspect was shot trying to rob the fifth bank in Stanwood, WA
  - Investigators worked with Snohomish County Detectives
  - Evidence collected in our case matched the suspect
  - Snohomish County will combine all the cases and charge
  - Detectives collaborated with Dept. of Corrections, Bellingham PD, Burlington PD, FBI, Sno County S.M.A.R.T., Skagit County Sheriff's Office and Anacortes Police Department
- Assisted Anacortes PD – Child Pornography Investigation
  - Suspect was a registered sex offender and had prior offenses
  - Assisted APD with a computer forensic exam
  - Suspect sentenced to 12 years federal crimes, life on supervision
- Shooting Investigation
  - Suspect was from Royal City in Eastern Washington
  - Convicted and sentenced to 108 months
- “Flop” House Aided Felons in Committing Crimes
  - 8-10 known felons were frequently using this house
  - Neighbors were intimidated and lived in fear
  - Investigators had two home invasion robbery incidents on back to back nights that they suspected were connected to this residence
  - Eight guns were confiscated or taken as evidence from different individuals who frequented this property for various crimes
  - Investigators assisted Crime Prevention with the eviction process
  - Eviction was ultimately completed, house was vacated of the criminal element, and an adult male responsible for the home invasion robbery was shot by U.S. Marshall's when he resisted arrest.
- U.S. Marshalls Shooting Investigation
  - U.S. Marshalls attempting to arrest suspect on a warrant when the suspect drew a gun, agents returned fire killing the suspect.
  - MVPD Detectives were asked to investigate. The investigation took three weeks of intensive work
- Agency Assist WSP - Pedestrian Fatality Involving On-Duty Trooper
  - A pedestrian crossing a closed access freeway was struck by a Trooper responding to an emergency call
  - MVPD Detectives were asked to investigate
  - The investigation took one-half months of investigative time
  - Case is pending prosecutor review
- Commercial Burglary
  - Two businesses were burglarized
  - Two adult were identified as suspects
  - Both are on warrant status for two counts of burglary
- Weapon Offense
  - Incident didn't involve any injuries
  - Suspect is on warrant status

- Assisted Everett PD – Felony Assault
  - Felonious assault occurred in Everett, suspect was in a motel in Mount Vernon.
  - MVPD's Hotel/Motel Disclosure Program was used by the motel in question which allowed investigators to examine the guest registry freely
  - The suspect was found to be staying at the motel but later located at a nearby park and taken into custody without incident
- Missing Person
  - Originated in California, authorities were tracking the lost juvenile's phone and it showed it was in the MV area
  - MVPD Investigators spent numerous hours tracking leads and narrowing the phones location.
  - A suspect was located, however, he had found the phone in a bus station in California and brought it with him to Washington
  - The missing girl was found safe in California
- Burglary to Multiple Apartments
  - Two suspects arrested for burglary
  - One suspect plead guilty, the second court is pending
- Robbery of West Mount Vernon Home
  - Home invasion style seeking drugs, jewelry and cash
  - No one injured
  - One suspect is in custody and the second is wanted on warrants
- Multiple Burglaries in the Riverbend Area
  - Eight different businesses burglarized
  - Over \$5,000 in damage, suspects shot out windows with BB guns
  - Two suspects arrested pleading guilty to multiple counts of burglary
- Embezzlement
  - Over a two year period, \$45,000 in services were embezzled
  - Suspect has been charged/court action is pending
- Theft From an Employee Benefits Fund
  - Over \$70,000 in loss
  - Charged bookkeeper with theft, forgery and wire fraud
- Arson Fires.
  - Seven different suspicious fires over a six to seven month period.
  - Investigators worked with MV Fire Dept., WSP Crime Lab, ATF
  - Investigation continues

## **Objective #2:**

Conduct compliance checks for those businesses qualifying as pawnshops under Mount Vernon Municipal Code to ensure proper intake, recording and record keeping is occurring.

## **ACCOMPLISHED**

Checks found unintentional reporting errors, however, there were no intentional acts that were out of compliance. Additionally, the CID Secretary helped Island County Sheriff's Office by entering all their pawn information so investigators could detect if anyone was moving stolen property in this neighboring community.

### **Objective #3:**

Provide at least one CID representative at the Operations Talk meetings to help with identified problems/activity and assist other Divisions as needed.

### **ACCOMPLISHED**

Detectives had representation at every Operations Talk meeting:

- A "flop house" for drug users was identified through numerous complaints from patrol, residents and others. Operations Talk was the venue to collect different views. Detective Sergeant Mike Don saw a point where enough information had been collected to request a search warrant for Maintaining A House For Drug Purposes. The warrant was granted, the suspect was arrested and the landlord served with civil actions to correct the problem.
- Downtown Zone Officers were working a tri-plex attracting drug users. Detectives had an unrelated case with occupants from that residence. They served a warrant that allowed officers to identify further criminal activity. The tri-plex owner has since cleaned out the offenders.
- The previously mentioned "flop house" on North LaVenture housing 8-10 felons. This was an Operations Talk Agenda item for almost a year. Detectives assisted in several different investigative aspects that resulted in cleaning up the property.

These are just a few examples of the benefits bringing all operations staff together to share information serves to achieve our organization's mission.

## **GOAL #2:**

***STRENGTHEN OUR NETWORKS AND PARTNERSHIPS THAT PROVIDE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATORS AN ABILITY TO SHARE INFORMATION, EXCHANGE RESOURCES AND TOOLS.***

### **Objective #1:**

Partner with the FBI Innocence Lost Task Force to investigate the activity levels, if any, in Skagit County involving minors and prostitution. Our approach will include any local agencies interested in participating.

### **ACCOMPLISHED**

Detective Brandon Young planned and organized Operation Innocence Restored to determine if this type of activity was occurring in our communities. Eight different police agencies from four different counties and over 25 staff participated. Eight adult females were arrested for prostitution. All were from outside Skagit County but using social networks to communicate. No minors were identified.

The experience demonstrated that the Internet has created a virtual means for prostitution to occur in a community and that we need to be vigilant that it is not allowed to grow.

Association with this Task Force provided Detective Brandon Young state and regional training at no expense to the Department.

Detective Young is participating in a group of professionals to create a multi-disciplinary response protocol for investigating juvenile prostitution crimes.

**Objective #2:**

Partner with the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force to investigate the activity levels, if any, in Skagit County where adults use popular web classifieds like Craigslist and Backpage.com to solicit minors. Our approach will include any local agencies interested in participating.

**ACCOMPLISHED**

Competing priorities did not allow the time or resources to work on this task. It will be reviewed again in 2013.

**Objective #3:**

Continue our partnership with the FBI Innocence Lost Task Force. Priorities allowing, attend at least one emphasis or operations sponsored ILTF.

**ACCOMPLISHED**

- Attended two operations (Bellevue and Aurora).
- Attended sponsored training "Interviewing High Risk Juveniles"

**Objective #4:**

Complete the pilot project started at the end of 2011 determining workload and impact on pawnshops if required to photograph jewelry, rare coins, and other precious metals as part of their intake procedure. The end goal is to make a change to our local ordinance and state law requiring this procedure for all qualifying businesses.

**ACCOMPLISHED**

JC Pawn volunteered to help with the assessment. They found the cameras provided by the company were not good quality and resulting images were difficult to identify specifics nuances of the property taken in. Higher quality cameras would likely need to be purchased by the merchants. 2013 we'll be reviewing specific property categories like jewelry to see if photographing would help identify stolen property and dissuade those who have stolen it from seeing pawn merchants as a source to trade it for cash.

**Objective #5:**

Continue our commitments towards partners that help augment our work and services we provide.

**ACCOMPLISHED**

Agency partners that assisted us this past year include but are not limited to



- Bridget Collins Child Advocacy Center
- U.S. Marshalls
- Skagit County Prosecutor's Office
- Washington State Patrol Crime Lab
- Regional Intelligence Group
- Skagit Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Services
- Child Protective Services
- DSHS
- Adult Protective Services
- FBI
- Secret Service
- Social Security Administration
- Attorney General's Office
- Department of Corrections
- Local Leveling Committee for Registering Sex Offenders

### **GOAL #3**

***MONITOR CRIMINAL ACTIVITY METHODS SO AS THEY CHANGE WE ARE ABLE TO ADJUST OUR OWN INVESTIGATIVE APPROACHES.***

#### **Objective #1:**

Complete the purchase and set-up of our forensic computer lab and continue tracking forensic exam/assist demands on the Division.

#### **ACCOMPLISHED**

The lab was completed during the year and demand for technology based services continues to increase, especially in the cellular phone area. Most consumers are purchasing "smart" phones which are small, mobile computers that track and store information. Rarely did we experience a major investigation that did not involve a "smart" phone component.

Detective Ely spent 467 hours on computer forensic exams for 28 investigations involving computers, cell phones, IP addressing or other technology evidence that required specialized skills to extract. His total hours (467) were up significantly (120) from 2011 because of the demand and prioritizing the time away from generalist investigative cases.

Homicide, Child Pornography, Robbery, & Sex Offenses were the most frequent types of crimes. Cellular phones and computer hard drives were the most common devices requiring exam.

Detective Ely did not have the time to track in detail the time he spent assisting officers or providing instructional assistance with computer related investigations or tasks but it is believed to have well exceeded the 69 hours spent last year. Typical requests included help downloading cell phone evidence, working with photo evidence software programs, maneuvering in Leads On-Line (which tracks pawn activity), trouble shooting computer problems, or recovering information from DVD's or other storage devices.

#### **Objective #2:**

Work with the Crime Prevention Supervisor to incorporate a second volunteer who could be trained to assist with “saved search” reviews in the Leads On-Line.

### **NOT ACCOMPLISHED**

Due to work load and the capabilities of our current volunteer, this was not completed. It will be reviewed next year to determine if it's still desired.

### **Objective #3:**

Continue work started in 2010 towards a Major Crimes Investigation protocol that would pertain to large scale criminal incidents where multiple agencies join investigative services together as one group.

### **ACCOMPLISHED**

Skagit Multiple Agency Response Team planning was completed by the end of 2012. Skagit County Sheriff and Chief's authorized Lieutenant Chris Cammock and Chief Criminal Deputy Don McDermott (Skagit County Sheriff's Office) to move forward with implementation in 2013. Orientation and training is scheduled for first quarter 2013.

### **Objective #4:**

Explore options for task forcing or sharing computer forensic services with other agencies within Skagit County.

### **NOT ACCOMPLISHED**

Demand for computer and phone exams continues to grow. Detective Ely assisted just about every local agency this past year in some form or the other. Anacortes Police and Skagit County Sheriff's Office both had individuals being trained to specialize however promotional opportunities and planned rotations exposed the challenges agencies our size will have in task forcing this specialized service. It takes thousands of dollars to train, equip and maintain certification for computer forensic examiners. For most agencies, it's not practical to dedicate a full-time person. We need to review historical models for selection and tenure of future investigators for these assignments. In addition, determine if public, private or non-profit partnerships are viable.

## **GOAL #4**

***REMAIN COMMITTED TO ENDEAVORS THAT HELP MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY, AGENCIES WE WORK WITH OR MYPD STAFF UNDERSTAND AND WORK MORE CLOSELY WITH OUR CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION SERVICES.***

### **Objective #1:**

Provide community members an understanding of the role a criminal investigations unit plays in a modern police agency by providing instructors at our 2012 Citizen's Academy. Involve other investigators from the Division who may be future instructors for the class.

### **ACCOMPLISHED**

Citizen Academy students had several opportunities to learn from CID personnel. Detective Dave Shackleton provided a classroom presentation that explained the role, function and services investigators provide our community. In addition, he exposed students to some of the ways investigators interpret trace evidence like blood and based on patterns what most likely occurred or didn't occur to create it.

Detective Brandon Young created a working crime scene during the mock-scene day where each student learned to photograph, measure, collect evidence samples and reconstruct a criminal event.

Detective Brandon Young provided instruction for our volunteers and COPP members who have gone beyond Citizen's Academy. Classes included orientation to the Innocence Lost Task Force and Blood borne Pathogens.

#### **Objective #2:**

Help local high school and college students better understand the career field for a criminal investigator by providing instructors for our Preparatory Academy program and West Hill NRO's Criminal Justice Program as classes require.

#### **ACCOMPLISHED**

Detective Shackleton connected with approximately 50 students by instructing several Mount Vernon High School Introduction to Criminal Justice Classes. He shared his experiences in criminal investigations and crisis negotiations. Detectives Young and Shackleton instructed courses during this year's Preparatory Academy covering radio procedures and crisis negotiations.

#### **Objective #3:**

Develop training for patrol personnel assigned technology responsibilities so they can assist patrol staff needing to complete Cellebrite exams. Experience has shown that training everyone is ineffective because the skill is perishable if not used frequently. The goal will be to reduce the demand on specific staff and spread it over a small but manageable group.

#### **ACCOMPLISHED**

This is a work in-progress. Several trainings occurred during the year resulting in more officers coming forward to perform exams. We still experienced a need specialization since phones and operating systems are not standardized. This is another area where a forensic specialist is needed.

### **GOAL #5**

***MAINTAIN DIVISIONAL EFFECTIVENESS AS IT RELATES TO STAFFING CAPABILITIES, PERSONNEL DEVELOPMENT, AND PROVIDING QUALITY INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES.***

#### **Objective #1:**

Dedicate time to conduct divisional planning that involves every member. The focus: unit needs, issues impacting our work, expectations for new members, and other topics that affect our work quality and quantity.

## **ACCOMPLISHED**

All CID personnel took part in divisional planning during the first quarter of 2012. The agenda focused on 2011 accomplishments, 2012 goals and objectives, and needs beyond the current year.

### **Objective #2:**

Develop transition plans for staffing rotations or absences occurring in 2011-12  
Criminal Investigations Supervisor in the 2nd quarter 2012

## **ACCOMPLISHED**

Sergeant Mike Don moved from the Crime Prevention Division to replace Sergeant Mark Shipman in October 2012. Sergeant Don held previous experience as a drug enforcement detective and began a field training and transition program into his new duties.

### **Objective #3:**

Annual planning identified the following equipment needs:

- Latent print fuming wands
- Blood spatter kit
- GPS tracking device equipment for certain criminal investigations
- Replacing our aged alternative light source unit

## **PARTIALLY ACCOMPLISHED**

Latent fuming wands, blood spatter kits, and research into replacing our alternative light source were all accomplished. The wands and spatter kits were purchased and put into operation. Due to the high cost of replacement, the alternative light source is being researched further.

### **Objective #4:**

Annual planning identified the following training and professional development needs:

- No Body Homicide Training
- Advanced Interviewing Skills
- Crime Scene Investigation
- Managing Asset Forfeiture

## **PARTIALLY ACCOMPLISHED**

Not all these courses were offered during the year however as they became available, investigators were sent based on skill need and assignment.

### **Objective #5:**

Offer in-service skills training for other divisional personnel.

## **ACCOMPLISHED**

At the monthly Detective Meeting in June, Ben Remak provided a one hour presentation on

Insurance Fraud investigation and offered resources they have to assist law enforcement. The training was open to all the agencies in Skagit County and several from Whatcom County attended.

## CRIME PREVENTION DIVISION

We believe.....

Community members, together with the police and other resources can identify and resolve problems unique to their neighborhood, with the vision of reducing crime, fear, and neighborhood decay.



## **GOAL #1**

### ***REDUCE CRIME RISK IN OUR COMMUNITY***

#### **OBJECTIVE #1**

On a weekly basis, collect police service call data for the fourteen identified patrol zones for use in Crime Prevention staff meetings, roll call briefings, and Operations Talk sessions.

#### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

Many hours were spent developing a system that would allow a week to week comparison of police calls across the community. Each week, Crime Prevention staff compiled the report and then sent it out to the entire Department. A citizen volunteer took over the developed program, which helped recoup staff hours to other operational areas. Reports were used by Zone Officers, patrol shift, Crime Prevention staff and at Operations Talk to identify activity shifts in the community that may result in crime

#### **OBJECTIVE #2**

Provide weekly snap shots of the police service calls within the neighborhood zones looking for trends, repeat callers, follow-up needs, or other indicators of emerging crime/disorder.

#### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

Zones were equally divided amongst the Community Service Officers. Each reviewed their areas and when spikes emerged, they looked deeper into the call history for commonalities. Short “snap shot” pieces were forwarded to staff

- Detected a burglary increase in Zone 12 during the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter
- Exposed the deterioration significance in the N. 4<sup>th</sup> Hill neighborhoods
- Detected a spike in vehicle prowling crime 400 Block of S. 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>
- Early detection of a problem drug house 1100 Block of S. 10<sup>th</sup>

### **OBJECTIVE #3**

Provide Operations Talk - crime analysis, problem house/neighborhood research, opening communication lines between police and affected parties, mediation and other prevention services as problems are identified.

### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

Crime Prevention serves as the “public education” branch for the organization that works to build the community’s capacity to understand and positively affect crime. Community Service and Crime Prevention Officers connect our services and tools through human networks with the ultimate goal of developing crime resistance barriers throughout our community.

There were 69 different disorder or crime related problems that passed through Operations Talk. The problem was resolved in 38 cases, reduced frequency in 11 cases, varied outcomes in 10, and the remaining were carried forward to 2013.



### **Crime Prevention – What we do**

**Teach** about crime and prevention

Building: Community capacity

**Connect** the public to services & tools

Building: Human networks

**Know how**, when, & where to use the knowledge & tools

Building: Crime Resistance Barriers

**Solve problems** size + scope = resident ability to solve

Building: Desired quality of life



## **OBJECTIVE #4**

When neighborhoods are referred or found to be experiencing issues concerning disorder/crime, coordinate plans to address the causative factors.

## **ACCOMPLISHED**

- **Eaglemont – speeding on hill to club house**

- Covert speed counter placed to gather data
- Radar trailer placement to remind motorists about their speed
- Traffic Safety Committee reviewed requests for stop signs or other “traffic calming”
- Traffic Enforcement Officers worked the area

**Outcomes:** Speeds determined to be within acceptable ranges to not make signage change. Roadway design will contribute to speed issues in the future



- **South 3<sup>rd</sup> Street (drug/stolen property) problem residences**

- Tri-plex inhabited by individuals involved in criminal activity
- Worked with the Zone Officers assigned to this area
- Located property owner and provided notice as to the ongoing problems
- CSO Skiffington conducted a door to door informal survey
- Set-up a neighborhood meeting to discuss results with Downtown Zone Officers

**Outcomes:** Three of the suspected problem tenants have all been arrested or removed from the property. Property owner has shown greater cooperation in addressing issues. Neighborhood meeting to discuss progress with residence occurred in late October.

- **S. 10<sup>th</sup> Drug House**

- Suspected drug activity from house, trash build up, conflicts with other neighbor
- Home owner's daughter and boyfriend living in garage building up trash outside

**Outcomes:** Served a search and arrest warrant for Maintaining A Drug House which incarcerated the criminal offenders. Owner cleaned trash in back yard. Children living in garage were removed. Relations with neighbors has shown improvement.

- **Disorder House On South 11<sup>th</sup>**

- Addressed abandoned cars, animals, noise, parties

**Outcomes:** Most issues have been addressed and frequency of activity seems to have declined. Residents have expressed positive comments about improvement.

- **921 S. 10<sup>th</sup> Suspected Drug Activity**

- Drug activity reported by Block Captain
- Confirmed person there had terminal illness



**Outcomes:** Tenant was moved from the property by landlord. No further problems reported.

- **South 27<sup>th</sup> Street Shooting Incident**

- In conjunction with Zone Officers, held a neighborhood meeting to discuss concerns following shooting incident

**Outcomes:** Neighbors had a chance to convey their concerns for the area. More work is needed here.

- **N. 4<sup>th</sup> Hill Area**

- About a half dozen or more properties suspected to be selling drugs
- Committed to a long range plan review for this area
- Conducted extensive neighborhood survey
- Created three new BW groups
- Addressed several problem rentals on N. 4<sup>th</sup> Hill
- Addressed drug/transient concerns near State Farm Office

**Outcomes:** A property with some of the highest complaints on West Lawrence Street was cleaned up following warrant arrests for Maintaining a Drug House and City Code Enforcement actions. This is a long range neighborhood revitalization effort. Great progress towards understanding neighborhood dynamics were completed this year.

- **Urban Avenue Multi-Family Complex Having Disorder Issues**

- Transients locating in woodland area off property alarming residents
- Suspected drug issues from certain units
- Vehicle prowling activity
- Particular tenants allowing undesirables to frequent property as their guests

**Outcomes:** CSO Keck worked with managers, A-Team, patrol and removed transient camps, stopped the undesirable guest activity, placed speed signs following safety committee review and approval.

- **Panhandling Reduction – North Commercial**

- Participated in planning meetings about the problems.
- Coordinated COPP to come in and conduct observation counts of violators and their activity
- Developed informational warning cards re: new ordinance

**Outcomes:** Panhandling activity in the North Commercial Zone has ceased.

- **North LaVenture Duplex – Reoccurring Criminal Activity**

- Gang activity, threats and intimidating neighbors, graffiti, drugs, centralized around this property
- Developed working relationship with landlord
- Provided security and support to neighbor who was being threatened by neighboring tenants
- Attended court hearings to provide testimony supporting the violations warranting eviction
- Conducted several neighborhood notifications following shooting
- Worked with school officials when children's families who were connected to individuals involved in the fatal shooting with U.S. Marshalls were impacted
- Coordinated with Street Department when gang graffiti was found etched into concrete out front to memorialize the gang member shot by U.S. Marshalls

**Outcomes:** This was a "broken window" for the neighborhood bringing down life quality, attracting crime, and creating obvious fear. Problem tenants were removed, property owner

spruced up exterior, and we repaired the “broken window”. Service calls dropped, crime dropped, fears declined.

- **West Winds Highest Motel For Police Calls**

- Detective Young working with our Hotel/Motel properties, identified the West Winds as having the highest police service calls
- Surveyed the guest population and found most were living there on a semi-permanent basis
- Owner lives in Burnaby, Canada and is terminally ill
- On-site manager doesn't have much control over major decisions

**Outcomes:** Brought in Code Enforcement and Fire Marshall to determine what changes could occur within their purview. Identified the owner's location in Canada and attempted correspondence. Met with the property manager to discuss violations of the semi-permanent residence against the zoning and municipal code. More work is needed.



- **Veterans Affairs Clinic Draw Unwarranted Police Calls**

- Inordinate amount of 911 hang-up calls
- Determined it was due in part to their complex phone system
- Found it more effective to work with VA police/security from Seattle to address employee behavior than on-site

**Outcomes:** Calls declined for a period of time but indicate they are rising again. False security alarm calls have also indicated upward trends. More work to do here getting VA cooperation and compliance.

- **Foreclosed Homes**

- CP Staff worked on at least 30 different problems related to foreclosed homes
- Required working with out of state banks, foreclosed homeowners with little equity at stake, Code Enforcement staff and issues, and a lot of communication with affected neighbors.

**Outcomes:** In most every case, we were able to work out restorative solutions to the decay, disorder, or criminal activity that first drew our attention to the situation.

- **South 25<sup>th</sup> Street Mobile Park**

- A single trailer was a primary source for gang activity, drugs, etc.
- No quick solutions because individuals own their trailers but lease the ground
- CSO Skiffington worked with park management through the lengthy eviction process

**Outcomes:** Court order to remove the trailer and tenant were finally achieved.



- **South 25<sup>th</sup> Street Speed Problem**

- Block Watch Member concern for speed on 25<sup>th</sup> between Division & Section
- Traffic Safety request submitted by BW group for lane striping as a traffic calming approach

**Outcomes:** Striping was approved and put in place during 2012. Initial observations indicate it is slowing general traffic down.

- **Assisting Criminal Investigations**

- Innocence Lost Operation was organized by CID personnel
- Operation involved identifying juvenile exploit through prostitution
- CP staff provided logistical support the night of the operation

**Outcomes:** No juvenile exploitation was found. “Red Light” Districts are now shaped by the Internet where “Johns” make their arrangements on-line and select their meeting site. Require us to monitor our hotel/motel activities closer.

- **Undeveloped Urban Field**

- Remote, wooded area popular for transient encampment
- Plan was to look at leveling the site to reduce the ability for camps to easily be reconstructed

**Outcomes:** Wetland regulations limit what site work could be done. The property was in the middle of a sale and stalled efforts from owners to move forward with any site changes. Review this in 2013.

- **Eaglemont – Post Kendrick Burglary**

- Burglary of Major League Baseball player Kyle Kendrick’s home drew wide spread attention
- HOA put in a lot of time planning and building out a new security and Block Watch network for their area

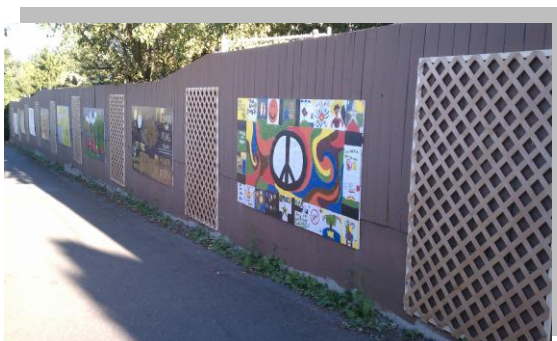
**Outcomes:** Added a new dimension to our BW programming. BW Consortium’s for areas where geography connected homeowners/business owners in a regional area. HOA researched and replaced their aged security system with a state of the art system.

## **OBJECTIVE #5**

Complete the Stonebridge Walking Trail project by finishing the trailhead signage.

## **ACCOMPLISHED**

Keeping it in the family, T.E.A.M. Officer Mike Lumpkin’s daughter hand painted the trail head sign and with the help of her dad it’s now prominently displayed.



## **GOAL #2**

***CREATE OPPORTUNITIES THAT ENCOURAGE RESIDENTS TO BE A PART OF NOT APART FROM THE ISSUES THAT DEGRADE LIFE QUALITY IN THEIR NEIGHBORHOODS.***

### **OBJECTIVE #1**

Continue the development of the Eaglemont Homeowners Consortium.

### **ACCOMPLISHED**

CSO Skiffington met regularly with the Planning Committee members. He worked to collate their Captain contacts with our master Block Watch lists. He attended scheduled meetings serving as a direct conduit between the police and this large neighborhood community. He also provided crime prevention training and worked with the members to address loitering problems after hours in one of the community's pocket parks.

### **OBJECTIVE #2**

Continue to offer information that informs the community about relevant policing issues as well as services we provide by using the mediums consumers most often choose. Look for topics that appeal to their interests, needs and offer teachable moments.

### **ACCOMPLISHED**

#### **- Social Networking Platforms**



**on the WEB**

The City's website went through a complete overhaul in 2012. Many hours were spent working with staff from other departments to improve the site's maneuverability and content. Providing "self service tools" was the driving goal.

Chief Dodd provided continual updates to our Facebook customers.

#### **- Television (TV10 Public Channel)**



2012 Citizens Academy graduation was published so the community could take part in the accomplishments of these students.



- **Newspaper/Print Media**



create more dialogue.

COPS Corner was a monthly column written by the Crime Prevention Supervisor containing thoughts, ideas, and tips regarding contemporary police/community issues. A special column was dedicated to asking readers to send their questions as an effort to

- **MVPD Lobby Media Display**



Those waiting for police/court services could watch messages, videos, and other police or city programs around the community.

- **eNews**



Electronically published twice a month sharing crime trends, updates on significant criminal cases, profiling MVPD employees, and activities happening around the community. 26 editions were published this past year.

**Subscribe today:** [mountvernonwa.gov/notifyme](http://mountvernonwa.gov/notifyme)

### **OBJECTIVE #3**

Determine the feasibility of creating short video vignettes that could offer police activity alerts, road closures, crime prevention tips, etc.

### **PARTIALLY - ACCOMPLISHED**

Competing priorities made it difficult to complete this project, however, CSO Skiffington created a "How to" video/vignette for Patrol Officers setting up a new portable trail camera system. This cut down staff hours for teaching/attending training.

### **OBJECTIVE #4**

Complete the action plan steps outlined for West Mount Vernon in 2011.

### **ACCOMPLISHED**

- Residents surveyed identified a number of change recommendations for traffic flow, signage, extra patrols, problem residents, etc. Most, if not all, were corrected.
- “eNews” was distributed to all Block Watch groups, apartment manager networks, city employees and anyone who had signed up on our list serve. Every two weeks a program, service, crime tip, or educational update was provided.
- In June, the City Council approved a street closure in West Mount Vernon for a bicycle race. Crime Prevention Staff sent advisory information to the West Mount Vernon residents as part of our continuing commitment to help reduce inconveniences and impacts that can occur from large events at Edgewater Park.

### **PROGRAM OF THE YEAR**

In 2012, the Washington State Crime Prevention Association awarded Mount Vernon Police Crime Prevention their program of the year.

### **GOAL #3**

***HELP COMMUNITY MEMBERS UNDERSTAND WHAT CAUSES CRIME TO GROW, THEIR ROLE IN PREVENTING IT AND THE SIGNIFICANCE THEIR INVOLVEMENT HAS IN PROMOTING LIVABLE NEIGHBORHOODS AND A SAFE COMMUNITY.***

### **OBJECTIVE #1**

Utilize community events, fairs or activity days as a venue for promoting relevant crime prevention and deterrence messages.

### ***ACCOMPLISHED:***

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skagit County Fair</li> <li>• Downtown Christmas Parade</li> <li>• No Tricks Just Treats Halloween Safety Campaign</li> <li>• Children’s Art Festival</li> <li>• YMCA Safety Fair</li> <li>• Bank Robbery Training – Skagit State/PECU</li> <li>• Block Watch Captain’s Appreciation Event</li> <li>• Preparatory Academy</li> <li>• Domestic Violence Offender Program - quarterly</li> <li>• Domestic Violence Impact Panel – quarterly</li> <li>• Read to Succeed Fair – Library</li> <li>• Read to Succeed Fair – Centennial School</li> <li>• Riverfest – 4<sup>th</sup> of July – Staffed the event</li> <li>• Survey conducted in Zone 12 following burglary activity</li> <li>• Bank Managers Network</li> <li>• Fire Station #2 Open House</li> <li>• Fire Station #3 Open House</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Riverside Health Club Employee Personal Safety Training</li> <li>• Rape Aggression Defense Training – MV City Employees</li> <li>• Scout Tours (Cub, Boy, Girl) – 9 tours</li> <li>• German Exchange Group tour</li> <li>• Fraud Training for seniors – 4</li> <li>• Social Security Safety Presentation</li> <li>• Assist Kulshan Creek NRO at neighborhood events – 1</li> <li>• Realty Group Safety Fair</li> <li>• Managers Network Meeting</li> <li>• Skagit Valley Hospital Security/Safety Review</li> <li>• National Night Out – 2-3 neighborhoods participated</li> <li>• Skagit Valley Herald Christmas Fund</li> <li>• Supported the Fall Coat Drive</li> <li>• Community Safety Fair (Sponsored by Farmers Insurance)</li> </ul> |
|---|---|



## **OBJECTIVE #2**

Expand our Vacation Home Check program to offer service coverage from five days to six days a week.

## **NOT ACCOMPLISHED**

Securing volunteers for weekend coverage proved difficult due to vacation schedules and “snow bird” activity where many volunteers are seniors who travel to warm places during the winter. This endeavor will be pursued in 2013.

## **OBJECTIVE #3**

Continue our role of identifying graffiti locations and coordinating the removal with the City Work Crew, Juvenile Graffiti Accountability Program, and other community groups.

## **ACCOMPLISHED**

344 sites of graffiti were cleaned up. 105 work slots were filled by juvenile offenders assigned community service hours by the court.

## **OBJECTIVE #4**

Identify areas where graffiti commonly occurs and review if the area is suitable for a redesign to discourage these crimes.

## **ACCOMPLISHED**

A major graffiti spree in West Mount Vernon was solved when the work crew supervisor reviewed security camera footage and recognized one of the suspects who had worked previously on the City Work Crew. Offenders cleaned up the graffiti and King 5 did a special on the City Work Crew program.

## **OBJECTIVE #5**

Continue our role in producing the Department's Citizen Academy Program.

## **ACCOMPLISHED:**



24 students graduated from the 12-week program



Officers & staff instruct the classes



First-hand look at what it's like to be a police officer



### **CITIZENS ACADEMY PURPOSE**

*Citizens Academy is designed to open our doors to the community, and through education, enhance communication and understanding between the police department and citizens.*

### **OBJECTIVE #6**

Manage the Department's Citizen On Proactive Patrol Program.

### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

Three graduates from the 2012 Citizens Academy Class signed up and completed initial training in 2012. Field training prior to going "solo" status will occur into 2013.

## **CITIZEN'S ON PROACTIVE PATROL**

# **COPP**



### **Savings**

Total Volunteers	33
Donated Hours	3219

**\$71,268**



### **Other Services**

Called in to assist officers	75
Dispatched to a police call	90
Assisted directing traffic	24
Assisted a citizen locked out	36
Personal contact with a citizen	543
Identifying CPTED referrals	8
Placed the speed reduction car	21
Processed found property	18
Addressed graffiti	41
Handi-cap Parking Warnings	24
Turned out street light checks	5

### **Physical Checks**

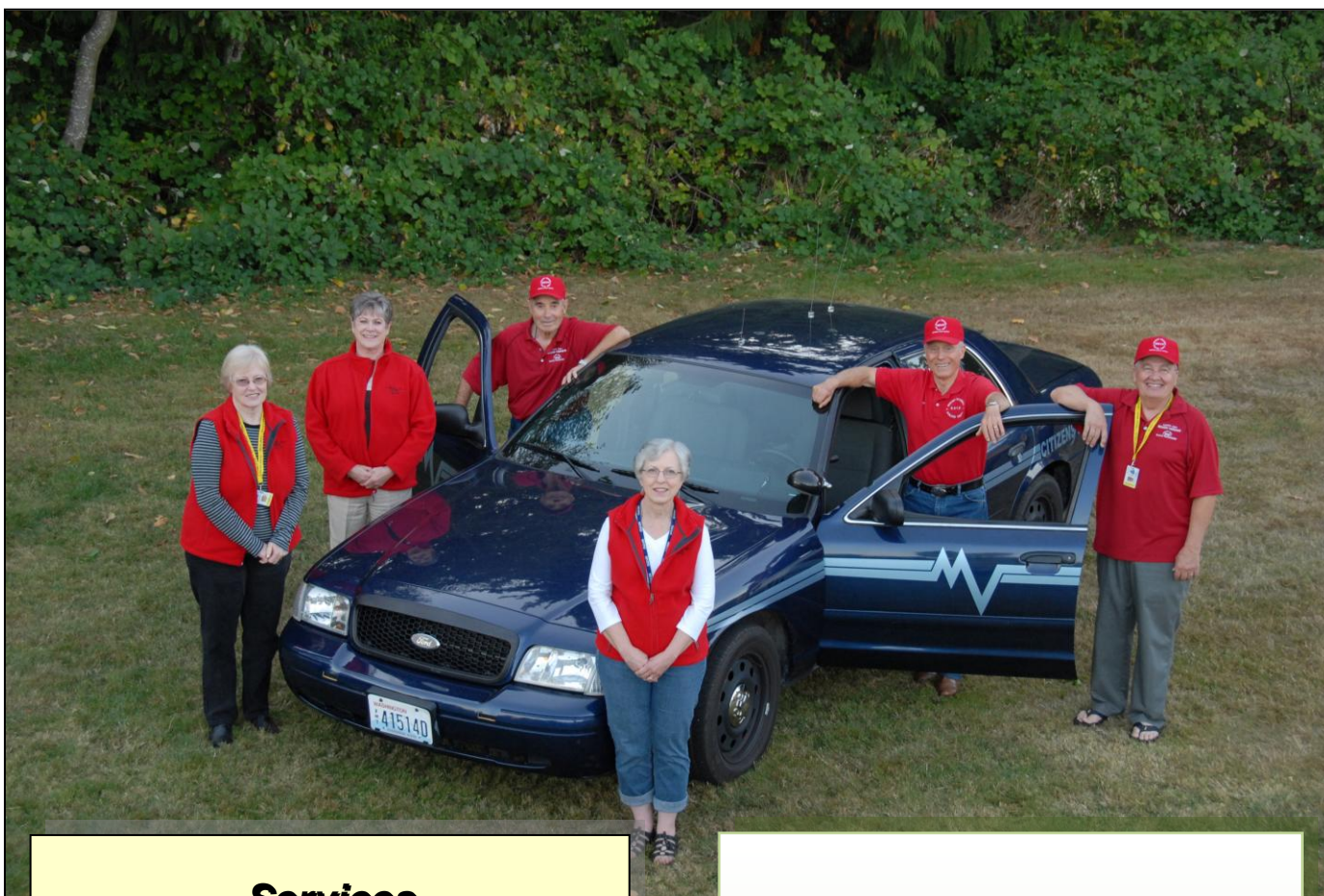
Apartment complexes	387
Banks	568
Businesses	3463
Churches	590
Parks	985
Schools	86

### **Security Patrols**

Block Watch Neighborhoods	3698
By specific request	57
Downtown area	552
South Mount Vernon annex	169
West Mount Vernon	237

# RSVP

Retired Senior Volunteer Program



## **Services**

Vacation home checks (FREE service)  
Police records filing  
Property Room Assistance  
Crime statistic gathering  
Staff public fingerprinting days

## **Savings**

Number of Volunteers	14
Donated Hours	1196

**\$26,480**

**OBJECTIVE #7**

Coordinate the Department's student internship program for those interested in the policing field. The program is offered throughout the year dependent on student availability and staffing.

### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

A SVC student earned course credits in exchange for hands on learning during the summer of 2012. A review and update to intern duties and responsibilities was completed along with further research to determine the feasibility of creating a paid internship program to attract 4 year college students for longer work periods.

### **OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

"Nancy" joined our office volunteer ranks in June and came with accounting and bookkeeping skills. She was immediately put to work by our Detectives, who needed help organizing financial records seized during a homicide investigation. She spent a number of hours sorting and organizing each record and compiling a spreadsheet summary of all the accounts. Even though she was supervised by a Detective, the hours she spent allowed other Detectives to handle other aspects of the case that was more to their expertise.

## **GOAL #4**

***DEVELOP WAYS TO CHANGE COMMUNITY ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIORS ABOUT CRIME, NEIGHBORHOOD DECAY AND DISORDER.***

### **OBJECTIVE #1**

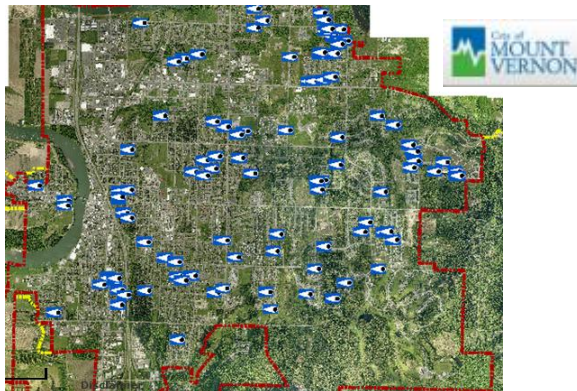
Block Watch Programming: Recruit at least three new neighborhoods in each area. Produce our semi-annual Captain's meeting. Maintain a Block Watch map that identifies the neighborhoods, Captains and contact information so Neighborhood Officers can access. Continue building our communication links to allow daily interaction with BW members.

### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

Nine new Block Watches formed this past year making our total coverage 108 for the city.

#### **Newly added in 2012:**

- Alpine View
- Beaverpond
- Eagle Ridge
- 500 Block N. 4<sup>th</sup>
- 300 Block N. 6<sup>th</sup>
- 800 Block N. LaVenture
- 5000 Block Razor Peak
- South 22<sup>nd</sup> Place
- 5500 Block Timberridge





A semi-annual Captain's meeting was held in the spring where over 50 Captains attended. Training was provided on a new emergency alert process, MyStateUSA, and gun recognition and safe handling.

## **OBJECTIVE #2**

Develop an event to the appreciation we have for the dedicated volunteers who choose to be Block Watch Captain's for their neighborhoods.

## **ACCOMPLISHED**

Over 30 Block Watch Captain's turned out on a beautiful fall afternoon at the Vaux Retreat Center. Crime Prevention Staff barbequed, we shared stories about their successes, but most importantly recognized the important role they play in keeping neighborhoods safe and secure.



## **OBJECTIVE #3**

Maintain a 2012 calendar of events that crime prevention staff participate or provide services in and post in a manner that makes everyone aware.

## **ACCOMPLISHED**

All crime prevention activities were planned and calendared throughout the year. Weekly staff meetings were used to fine tune last minute details and critique

## **OBJECTIVE #4**

Identify areas within the community that have had little or no police contact in the past year to conduct neighborhood pulse check's for order maintenance concerns.

## **ACCOMPLISHED**

Blackburn Ridge was canvassed by CSO Jon Skiffington.

The North 4<sup>th</sup> Hill near Fulton and Lawrence was experiencing noticeable levels of deterioration (drug sales, property crimes, transients trespassing, and rising violent crime). CSO Megan Keck led a group that conducted an extensive neighborhood survey to learn more about the area surveying about ten square blocks. This information coupled with service call data, views from other police staff, business owners were compiled into a planning process to correct problems that were identified.



## **GOAL #5**

**CONTINUE OUR PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAM'S TOWARDS EDUCATING THE YOUTH OF OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH VIOLENCE AND DRUG RESISTANCE EDUCATION.**



- T.E.A.M. is a customized drug, alcohol, and violence resistance program tailored to Mount Vernon youth.
- It consists of 423 lesson topics taught to over 490 sixth grade students. Kindergarten and first graders are taught Stranger Danger and pedestrian bicycle safety classes.
- "Officer Mike" teaches in seven elementary schools, two Montessori, and Mount Vernon Christian shaping the lives of over 3500 young people. He participates in teacher planning sessions, parent meetings, and school fairs when outside the classroom.
- 2012 marked T.E.A.M.'s eleventh year in our schools.



## **OBJECTIVE 1**

Review the T.E.A.M. Graduation program and make appropriate adjustments.

## **ACCOMPLISHED:**

The Mount Vernon High School gymnasium remodel made it impossible to hold one, district-wide graduation like previous years. Mike worked with each school and developed seven individual school graduation programs. Feedback from teachers, students, and parents who attended was very

positive. They felt the graduations provided more personal connection for students and their accomplishments. The programs still recognized student essay readers, however, each student was now able to receive a “diploma” for their achievement and receive congratulations from the Mayor and Chief of Police.

## **OBJECTIVE 2**

Complete the Stonebridge Trail improvement project.

### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

Officer Lumpkin worked with the 6<sup>th</sup> graders at Centennial School to complete the final murals for the Stonebridge Trail entrance. In 2011, each class completed a mural board which was placed along the trail to discourage graffiti and vandalism. The trail has had few reported incidents since these boards were placed.

## **OBJECTIVE 3**

Set-up a curriculum review to identify any areas of the program that need updating. Examine the feasibility of creating TEAM lesson videos or use of social media to extend lessons beyond the classroom.

### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

Three lesson plans were revised during the year and frame work for a full program review was started. The majority of that work will occur in 2013.

#### **Kindergarten – Grade 1**

Stranger Danger in the fall  
Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety in the spring

#### **Grade 2**

Drugs Good or Bad  
Gun Safety  
Staying Safe

#### **Grade 3**

Dealing With Angry Feelings  
Refusal Skills  
Gangs

#### **Grades 4**

Conflict Resolution/Anger Management  
Bullying  
Staying Safe in Cyber Space  
Respect Yourself and Others Too  
Tobacco

# ***RECORDS and PROPERTY DIVISIONS***

## ***2012 Divisional Accomplishments***



### **GOAL #1**

#### ***MAINTAIN A HIGH LEVEL OF PROFESSIONAL CUSTOMER SERVICE.***

**Objective 1:** Engage in conversations within the Department and with the court re: layout of the lobby. Specifically, suggest a secondary location for a “red phone” that offers more privacy for the caller.

Ongoing – moved to 2013.

**Objective 2:** Examine how and where we hire volunteers and how they might enhance the customer service offered at the Police Department.

The community of Mount Vernon and the Records Division specifically, continues to greatly benefit from the service of our volunteers. We continue to have nearly all case filing completed by volunteers, much of the binder creation for dissemination to prosecutors is accomplished thru volunteers, the regular filing of employee timesheets / OT sheets is accomplished with volunteer

time. Nearly all of the destruction occurring in the evidence room involves volunteers. We have volunteers specifically helping in the Records Division four days per week.

We value our relationships with the volunteers, and continue to discuss how they can participate further in our working environment.

General – Customer Service:

Deb O'Neill, our Receptionist, continues to work to enhance customer service, and attended a class entitled "Providing A+ Customer Service in a Public Service Environment."

We began participation in a Prescription Drug Take-Back Program, along with other jurisdictions in Skagit County. All Records staff is trained in the ongoing usage of this program and we have seen great benefit for the community. Heidi Kjos, our Property & Evidence Custodian, has been the point person on this project. We also participated in a DEA Prescription Drug Take-Back day in spring 2012 that was a great success – we collected over 70 pounds of leftover, discarded, unwanted prescription drugs.

### **GOAL #2**

***COLLABORATE WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT AND OTHER CITY OF MOUNT VERNON PERSONNEL TO UPDATE THE CITY'S WEBSITE AND ENSURE THE RECORDS / PROPERTY AREAS OFFER APPROPRIATE INFORMATION.***

**Objective 1:** Work with Crime Prevention to have at least one Records staff member trained to add to and manipulate the Records portion of the website.

This has been continued to 2013, and Record Specialist Robin Roberts-Good has volunteered for this role.

**Objective 2:** Update the city's website to offer more information – both procedural and financial. Specific areas of interest are: public disclosure, fingerprinting, animal licensing & processing, alarm permits and processing, and paying for all of these things with a debit or credit card online.

This has been continued to 2013.

### **GOAL #3**

***WORK WITH THE COUNTY & CITY PROSECUTORS OFFICES TO DISSEMINATE DISCOVERY ELECTRONICALLY.***

**Objective 1:** Purchase the hardware and software necessary to achieve this goal.

We researched software and hardware during early 2012 and purchased three scanners, specifically to support electronic dissemination of discovery. The more expensive software was budgeted and passed for the 2013 budget.

**Objective 2:** Ascertain if DocStar is the electronic storage software appropriate for storing electronic cases.



We have been working with IS to ascertain the needs for electronic storage, and will be better equipped to do so after the software is purchased and we begin the electronic dissemination process.

**Objective 3:** Figure out standards for disseminating and storing cases electronically (i.e. naming standards, order, etc.).

Continued to first half of 2013.

**Objective 4:** Work with the Mount Vernon IS Dept and the County IS Dept or Records Dept to facilitate transferring information from Mount Vernon Police to Skagit County Prosecutor and / or City of Mount Vernon Prosecutor.

Continued to first half of 2013.

#### **GOAL #4**

***WORK WITH PATROL TO ANALYZE THE DICTATION & TRANSCRIPTION PROCEDURE, WITH THE GOAL OF IMPROVING EFFICIENCY WHERE POSSIBLE AND TECHNOLOGY.***

**Objective 1:** Continue to serve patrol with transcription needs with the analog system.

Completed, although the equipment is tired and used.

**Objective 2:** Research digital recording and transcription equipment for cost, efficiency, user-friendliness, etc.

Worked with Patrol to research and start the digital recording and transcription on a short-term test phase. It was a success, and we'll plan to fully implement this in 2013.

**Objective 3:** Research talk-to-text software like Dragon Naturally Speaking. Could it create some efficiencies? Look for testimonials from other LE for successes and failures.

Continued to first half of 2013.

**Objective 4:** Update Dictation Guide.

The Dictation Guide was updated, both for the most recent requirements of materials and hardware, but also to include the latest state and federal reporting requirements. This is available electronically, and may be available in paper by request.

#### **GOAL #5**

***ENHANCE TEAMWORK AND HARMONY WITHIN THE RECORDS DIVISION.***

**Objective 1:** Continue to meet as a Division to discuss issues affecting the Records group.

We continued with Records Staff Meetings as well as less formal impromptu meetings where issues affecting the group are discussed.

In addition, Records continued to have representation on the Department Safety Committee, Spillman Managers group and the Guild.

In July of 2012, we began working with Volunteers of America. Two facilitators guided conversations – over the phone and then in group settings, trying to discover what challenges the group is facing (socially, professionally, interacting with each other). We met as a group twice, and came up with some shared goals: being friendly with one another, being transparent, being helpful to each other, listening without judgment, acting with integrity and not putting up with negativity.

**Objective 2:** Analyze work, tasks, schedules to see if there are ways to improve efficiency and workflow.

Throughout 2012, there was quite a bit of discussion of workload. The overall feeling of the Records Group is a growing trend that they are required to do more work with less time. The work that the Records group accomplishes is often times complicated, time-sensitive, very detailed, and much of it changes (with RCW or rule or procedure) frequently. In order to regain more expertise and attempt to function more efficiently, we decided that the Records Specialists would specialize on a trial basis. We began this at the end of 2012 and will evaluate the wisdom and efficiency of this in April or May, 2013.

The Property & Evidence Custodian and Receptionist have also been reviewing tasks and attempting to review their workflow and efficiencies.

**Objective 3:** Encourage the participation of staff in Wellness, Education, and social activities.

Continued to first half of 2013.

# **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION**

## **2012 Accomplishments**



**Lieutenant Jerry Dodd and Administrative Assistant Kathryn Cherry**

### **GOAL #1**

***TO CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN THE DEPARTMENT'S COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE A SAFE WORKPLACE TO OUR EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS.***

1. The Department Safety Committee will continue meeting quarterly. To conduct the first meeting by March 31, 2012.

*This objective was accomplished. The Safety Committee met in March, June, September and December. Meeting minutes were posted on the safety board, forwarded to the City Human Resource Director and command staff. The committee identified potential workplace hazards, reviewed training accomplishment and accidents. The Department also actively participates with the City Safety Committee.*

2. To review and update the Departments workplace safety programs. To be accomplished by December 31, 2012.

*This is an on-going objective. Four of the six safety programs were reviewed by the Department Safety Committee. This objective will be forwarded to 2013.*

3. To conduct a fire inspection of the police and court campus. To be completed by June 30, 2012.

*The objective was accomplished on May 11, 2012. Two minor violations were discovered by the City Fire Marshal. Violations were fixed within 30 days.*

4. To select a new department Safety Committee Chairperson. To be completed by December 31, 2012.

*This objective was accomplished. Jon Skiffington is the new Department Safety Committee Chairperson.*

5. To actively participate with the City Safety Committee. To attend the first meeting by January 31, 2012.

*This objective was accomplished. The Department Safety Officer attended and actively participated with the monthly City Safety Committee meetings. The meeting minutes were provided to the Department Safety Committee members and were posted on the department safety bulletin board.*

6. To conduct an on-site workplace inspection with Safety Committee members. To be conducted by December 31, 2012.

*This objective was accomplished on March 23, 2012. No violations were discovered by the Safety Committee.*

7. To have each member of the Department Safety Committee attend one L&I workshop. To be accomplished by December 31, 2012.

*This objective was not completed. Jon Skiffington attended a "Rates and Claim Management" class on September 12, 2012. This objective will be forwarded to 2013.*

8. To complete an evacuation drill for the Police and Court Campus. To be accomplished by December 31, 2012.

*This was objective accomplished. The drill conducted on May 3, 2012. Received positive feedback from Fire Marshal Steve Riggs and forwarded to entire staff. Campus evacuation plan was also updated.*

9. To build 72 hour emergency kits for the Department. To be completed by June 30, 2012.

*This objective was partially accomplished. Because of budget constraints this will be forwarded to 2013. Some items were purchased this year.*

10. To provide respiratory fit-testing to all commissioned personnel. To be accomplished by December 31, 2012.

*This objective was accomplished. All commissioned personnel, CSOs and Animal Control Officer were fit-tested. Testing was conducted by Mount Vernon Fire Fighter Aaron Robbins.*

## **GOAL #2**

### ***TO CONTINUE THE DEPARTMENT'S COMMITMENT TO THE STATE ACCREDITATION PROGRAM.***

1. To update the accreditation information brochure. To be accomplished by June 30, 2012.

*This objective was accomplished. The brochure was update to reflect the newest*

*accreditation standards and displayed with other educational information materials at the front lobby.*

2. To update the files and mandatory standards. To be accomplished by December 31, 2012.

*This objective was accomplished. The 2012 files and standards were updated in preparation for the upcoming 2015 on-site.*

3. To attend the WASPC accreditation managers/assessors training. To be accomplished by December 31, 2012.

*This objective was accomplished. On August 7, 2013, an eight hour training class was conducted at the WASPC headquarters in Lacey.*

### **GOAL #3**

#### ***To CONTINUE THE DEPARTMENT'S COMMITMENT FOR LOCALIZED TRAINING.***

1. To meet with the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission to reconfirm their commitment for regional training at our campus. To be completed by March 31, 2012.

*The objective was accomplished. The Department met with the Washington Criminal Justice Training Commission (North Central Regional Manager) Representative in February. They reconfirmed their commitment for regional training to be conducted at the Department. Because of state budget shortfalls, only three CJTC classes were scheduled for 2012.*

2. To complete training needs assessment of all employees. To be completed by August 30, 2012.

*This objective was accomplished. The assessment was completed in July 2012. The results were shared with command staff for their scheduling of staff to attend future training classes. The three most requested classes were Crime Scene Investigations; Interrogation/Interviewing and Collision Investigation.*

3. To host twelve training sessions at our police campus. To be accomplished by December 31, 2012.

*This objective was accomplished. The Department hosted 12 training sessions in the multipurpose room. Using this facility allows for an increased number of staff able to attend training and at a lower cost.*

4. To provide HAZMAT training to all commissioned personnel. To be accomplished by December 31, 2012

*This objective was accomplished. All commissioned personnel, CSO's, and Animal Control Officer received this training. Training was conducted in-house by Officer Brandon Young.*

5. To provide bloodborne and airborne pathogens training to volunteers and Department staff. To be accomplished by December 31, 2012.

*This objective was accomplished. All commissioned personnel, volunteers, CSO's, and Animal Control Officer received this training. Training was conducted in-house by Officer Brandon Young.*

6. To provide Spanish training to Department staff. To be accomplished by December 31, 2012.

*This objective was accomplished. All commissioned personnel and Records Staff attend this two hour training session. Training was conducted in-house by Officer Brien Reed.*

7. To provide PRISm training to all commissioned personnel. To be accomplished by December 31, 2012.

*The objective was partially completed. The computer experienced a software malfunction and was out of service for a couple months. The Department conducted one training session, 38 officers attended. This will be forwarded to 2013.*

**End of Document**



***[www.mountvernonwa.gov](http://www.mountvernonwa.gov)***

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